



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to  
[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)  
Deadline for September 2025 newsletter – 11th August



### Monthly meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Speaker:** Not known at time of compiling

**Subject:** Not known at time of compiling

**Speaker Finder:** Roger Kidd

### Volunteers

**Signing in:** Madeleine Fletcher, Rita Needham

**Meet & greet:** Teresa Tandy, Jenny Coulthred

**Setting up:** Ernie Thornhill, John Armstrong,  
Rob Leam, Cecil Peters

**Refreshments:** Sue Wheatley, Linda Lambert,  
Margaret Rawding, Georgia  
Hanson, Heather Wright

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Patricia Whelan

### 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

**Deadline** for the **September** issue is the **11<sup>th</sup> August** and any articles or photos should be emailed to me at [newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org).

**This is also advance notice that there will not be an October newsletter as I shall be away for the month of September so please make sure to get your contributions into the September issue if you have important information to impart to the members.**

Melanie Weston

### Committee Roles

**Update:** Linda Rothwell was co-opted onto the committee at July's committee meeting and is the new business secretary.

The committee roles are now as follows:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Roger Kidd
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Anne Steel
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Keith Sherwood
<b>Business Secretary:</b>	Linda Rothwell
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Janet O'Neill
<b>Volunteers:</b>	Patricia Whelan
<b>Group Co-ordinators:</b>	Anne Steel/Sharon Dudley
<b>Welfare:</b>	Janet Lander
<b>Speaker Finder:</b>	Roger Kidd
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Mike Sheard

### Eastwood & District u3a Showcase

We will be holding a **showcase event** again at the October monthly meeting on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**, and we will be contacting all the groups contacts in due course to find out who will be participating this time.

Anne Steel

### Monthly Speaker Review

At our July monthly meeting we were treated to a very amusing talk by Graham Keal, ex-showbiz reporter of 51 years, entitled, "Oprah Winfrey touched my elbow." There were some hilarious anecdotes from interviewing diverse celebrities such as Eric Morecambe and Lulu to Henry Kissinger and David Attenborough.

One minute he would be in a swanky 5-day jamboree, all expenses paid interviewing the burgeoning cast of the now famous CSI New York cast, the next, he would be in a disused warehouse, all dark and dingy and raining at 10 o'clock at night in a rough part of Manchester! Life was not as glamorous as it seemed. He regaled us with hilarious stories, certainly ones that could be repeated without being sued. A highly entertaining speaker.

Anne Steel

## Art Appreciation

### May and June

For our May meeting we visited Hardwick Hall to look at the collection of paintings. We were ably guided by our latest recruit, Lisa, who has recently volunteered as a guide there. It was a very absorbing visit and as well as admiring the portraiture and the symbolism within the paintings we were given insights into other parts of the house and artefacts. For example, it was interesting learning about the use and re-use of tapestries, and the difficulties of restoring them.

As if the house and contents were not enough for us, there was an exhibition called Material Power: Rewoven. This was a collection of 16 contemporary textile pieces using tapestry, embroidery and appliqué. These reflected and explored the themes of female power, experiences and identity – very fitting in the home of Bess of Hardwick. However, we were not terribly impressed, finding them off-putting being displayed in various rooms and detracting from the impact of the rooms themselves. The pieces needed a lot of explanation. Perhaps if they had been displayed in a separate building we would have given them more attention. The exhibition is on till October, so there's time for you to go and make up your own minds!

In June, Marianne gave a presentation about Mark Wallinger, a living artist who we weren't sure we knew anything about. He is a Turner Prize winner and he was the first artist to provide a sculpture for the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, so perhaps we should have known him! His sculpture was called 'Ecco Homo', a life-size figure of Christ with bound hands and a crown of barbed wire, symbolising the plight of prisoners of conscience. His prize-winning piece was his installation 'State Britain' in Tate Britain, which was a recreation of the protest display outside Parliament, comprising banners, traffic cones, toys, fencing ... We were shown examples of his other multi-media sculptures and paintings.

*Helen Baker*

## Eastwood's Bloomin' Marvellous

We were due to have a stand at the Eastwood's Bloomin' Marvellous Festival on 6th July, but unfortunately the event was cancelled due to bad weather. However, we were still able to proceed with the "best dressed wheelbarrow" entry, although it was judged online! The pictures were duly sent to the organisers and our u3a came 3rd and won £10.00. A good result and as you can see from the photos it was a fantastic entry. Well done to the **Gardening Group** team for such a beautiful display.



*Anne Steel*

## General Gardening

The General Gardening Group has arranged a visit to **Meynell Trial Garden** (part of the Open Gardens scheme), near Ashbourne on **19th September, from 1pm to 3pm**.

The cost is £8 and will include a guided tour. Afternoon Tea is **NOT** provided, but there is a cafe next to the gardens.

We have spaces for up to 10 more u3a members. Please contact Ann on [candamcg@gmail.com](mailto:candamcg@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the list.

We will be car sharing, so please indicate whether you can offer places in your car, or require a lift.

Thanks

*Ann McGillivray*



### 5 Mile Walks - July

What a difference a month makes. There were just twelve of us decided to risk the sun and the heat for our July walk. But Heather did us proud, and took us through the trees and in the shade for our trip from Bramcote Park car park to Trowell Garden Centre, where several of us enjoyed a late breakfast.



Maureen Ward

### KnitAid

A few items made by members of KnitAid. Now parcelled up and ready to go to Ukraine. We send lots of our makes to Ukraine but we also work on other projects that interest us throughout the year.

We meet at Rumbletums, Kimberley on the 3rd Thursday morning, 10-12 noon. We're a very friendly group and welcome new members.

If you're decluttering and want to dispose of knitting wool the KnitAid group would be very happy to take it off your hands.



Margaret Naylor

### Poetry

#### All Change!

I'm now "tooled up" and wondering how  
I've reached a certain time of life  
when staying upright seems too hard  
and causes me a load of strife.

A load of bruises, bumps and cuts,  
with several falls I now peruse.  
I cannot seem to stay upright  
though taken not a drop of booze!

My caring family are distraught;  
they fear that I will not survive.  
To Amazon they quickly turned  
'contraptions' viewed keep me alive.

A walking stick just will not do;  
it has to be a walker strong  
so, clinging to it, I can't trip  
as day by day I dodder along.

All rugs and mats are now thrown out  
to rot away within the garage.  
And granny handles screwed to walls  
proclaim to all I cannot manage.

Hey ho, alas and lack a day,  
my undercarriage needs a boost.  
These 'B' contraptions are a must  
or injuries become self induced.

Refrain from dwelling in the past  
when walking was no strife.  
Take it on board just as a norm.  
It's just a change in life!

Pat Potter

### Local History Group

#### Topic: Kimberley

Our speaker today was Diana Pidgeon, who took us on a varied journey regarding Kimberley from the Doomsday Book to the present day. It helped us to view Kimberley in many ways, including landmarks such as the War Memorial (the only domed memorial in the country) and the Water Tower at Swingate which can be seen from miles around.

Diana spoke of Kimberley's industrial heritage, which included mining, the railways (two railway stations), the brewery and the many pubs. It was interesting to learn that the Wolsey factory (now demolished) was originally a large lace factory and that the Queen Adelaide pub (now housing) was the first lace factory in Kimberley.

It was a very informative talk and will perhaps encourage some of us to visit the local library and pursue some of the subjects in more depth.

Janet Lander

## Psychology

The Psychology group have had some interesting meetings this year covering a range of topics including 'the importance of building resilience in the young', 'left and right-handedness', 'the value of friendship for well-being' and 'memory and aging'. A highlight was a very interesting talk by a support worker from the Youth Justice team who explained how they work with young people to help them find a future away from crime.

We are now taking a break for the summer and our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th September at 1 pm in Rumbletums, Kimberley. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Jim Stirland on 07977 415072 for further information.

*Diana Pidgeon*

## Gogglebox

In July we discussed **Death Valley** and **The Last Anniversary**.

The group were split down the middle with **Death Valley**, with some hating it and others really liking it. Criticisms were that it was too formulaic and some of the characters were irritating. Those who had enjoyed it, appreciated the witty humour and thought that Timothy Spall had gone back to his comic roots. (**Auf Wiedersehen, Pet**)

**The Last Anniversary** was enjoyed by most, although it was felt that it could have easily have been shortened into fewer episodes. The flashbacks were quite confusing, and the story was very convoluted. One member had spotted the twist in the first episode. Others enjoyed the beautiful setting on a remote Australian island, and liked the uncovering of the mystery. We were all fairly astonished that the family had managed to market the mystery so effectively over the years, and wondered whether they would now announce the truth to the world.

Next month, August 19th, we will discuss **Such Brave Girls** (BBC 3 and iPlayer), **People Like us** (BBC4 and iPlayer) and **Insomnia** (Channel 5).

Other recommendations are **Our Victorian Shop** (BBC2) and **Karen Pirie** (ITV).

*Janet Lander*



## War Babies and Boomers

At the last meeting, held 24th June, we decided to discontinue the group.

The group started out in 2018 as the 1948ers. A momentous year as, apart from it being the beginning of the National Health Service, it was the year members of the group turned 70.

During covid we expanded to become War Babies and Boomers, meeting via Zoom, and then, when restrictions were lifted, at the Kimberley Cricket Club, Brinsley Lodge, and finally Brinsley Parish Hall.

We covered many subjects related to our early years: school days (and the best and worst teachers we could remember); holidays; fashions; music; games we played, indoors and outside; winter weather; and many more.

It has been a joy to have been part of the group, and to hear all your stories, many of which I have written down, hopefully someday to edit and maybe compile into a publication.

For those who have recently joined the group, I hope you have enjoyed the meetings. Perhaps someone will start a new group, incorporating the next generation - Gen X - who are of an age now to be part of the u3a, and have their own childhood recollections.



*Ann McGillivray*

## Group Contacts

We hope all's going well with your group. Any queries or issues please contact us and we'll be happy to help. We'd like to put an article in the monthly newsletter of all the groups' activities. Have you done anything or been anywhere that we can share with our members? It can be humorous or just factual. Nothing to report then don't stress, we'll be contacting you once a month for any news, if applicable. Photos would also be brilliant.

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

Group Coordinators: **Anne and Sharon**

## Group Information

**If you have any ideas for new groups or need any further information please contact the group co-ordinators**

**Anne Steel and Sharron Dudley:**

[groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @11.00am.  
Contact Nina 01773 717 770

**Church History:** Meets in Rumbletums 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday @1:00 pm.  
Contact Marianne 0115 9134077

**Coffee & Co:** meet in various venues on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 11.00 am.  
Contact Barbara 0115 9468721

**Creative Crafts:** meet in Rumbletums 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 1-2.30 pm. **New Members welcome!**  
Contact Margaret 07828 155086

**Creative Writing:** meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
**New members welcome!**  
Contact Chris 07891 032300

**Family History:** meet in The Hayloft on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 11.00 – 12.30 pm.  
Contact Diana 0115 9169343

**French Conversation:** meet in The Hayloft on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 10.00 am. **New members welcome!**  
Contact Pauline 01773 788366

**General Gardening Club** meet 2:30 – 4:30, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday April - September @ different member's garden each month.  
Contact Ann on [candamcg@gmail.com](mailto:candamcg@gmail.com)

**Gogglebox:** meet in The Hayloft on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 11.00 – 12.30 pm.  
Contact Janet 07889 976342

**History of England:** meet in The Hayloft, 1st Thursday @ 10.00 am.  
Contact Janet: 01773 770183

**Jewellery Making:** meet in The Hayloft 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025**  
Contact Melanie 07722 177820

## Group Information

**KnitAid:** meet in Rumbletums, Kimberley, 3rd Thursday @ 10-12.00 noon.  
Contact Margaret 07828 155086

**Local History:** meet in Brinsley Parish Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @ 10:30 – 12:00  
Contact Janet 07889 976342 [janet\\_lander@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janet_lander@yahoo.co.uk)  
or Julie Matthews 07929 914230 [juliemattuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 10.00 am.  
**New members, beginners & enthusiasts all welcome.**  
Contact Barbara 01773 786004 or 07977109451

**Psychology:** meet in Rumbletums on the 4th Wednesday @ 1.00 pm.  
Contact Jim 07977 415 072 or Diana 0115 9169343

**Pub Pals:** meet 2nd Thursday each month @ 7pm in various locations  
also 4th Thursday each month @ 12 noon in various locations.  
Contact Janet 07961 832864 or Rob 07845 177500

**Rediscovering Nottingham Group 1:**  
meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
Contact Andrea Sadler on [andreahsadler@gmail.com](mailto:andreahsadler@gmail.com)

**Rediscovering Nottingham Group 2:**  
meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.  
Contact Andrea Sadler on [andreahsadler@gmail.com](mailto:andreahsadler@gmail.com)

**Spanish:** meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm @ Julie's Tea Rooms. **New members welcome!**  
Contact Paul 0115 9133449

**Strollers:** meet on the last Wednesday from April to Sept.  
Contact Jill on 01773 765735 or 07979 964091 for further information.

**Walks, 5 miles:** Meet on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August @ 10.00 am Jacksdale garden centre (avoid parking near the main entrance please).  
Susan on 01773765484 / 07866 604450 or  
Angela on 01773 786896

**War Babies & Boomers:**  
Contact Ann [warbabies@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:warbabies@eastwoodu3a.org)

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

Day	1 <sup>st</sup> in the month	2 <sup>nd</sup> in the month	3 <sup>rd</sup> in the month	4 <sup>th</sup> in the month
M o n d a y	10:00 National Trust meeting	10:30 Local History	10:30 Art Appreciation	11:00 Family History
	11:00 Book Group			
		19:00 Wine Appreciation		
T u e s d a y	10:00 5 mile Walks	10:00 French Conversation	10:00 Photography	10:00 French Conversation
			11:00 Gogglebox	10:30 Rediscovering Nottingham
			14:00 Creative Writing	
W e d n e s d a y	10:00 MONTHLY MEETING	10:30 Café Culture		10:15 Strollers
		11:00 Spanish		11:00 Spanish
				11:00 Coffee & Co
		13:00 Creative Crafts		13:00 Psychology
T h u r s d a y	10:00 History of England	11:00 Canasta	10:00 Jewellery Making	11:00 Canasta
			10:00 KnitAid	12:00 Pub Pals
			13:30 Pétanque	
		19:00 Pub Pals		
F r i d a y				10:30 Rediscovering Nottingham
		13:00 Church History		