



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for November 2025 newsletter – 13th October



Monthly meeting

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Speaker: Mike Burton

Subject: Uncle Tom's Cabin

After putting her six children to bed, housewife Harriet sat down to write a novel. She poured her heart and soul into it. God, she said, helped her to write it. Her focus was the greatest issue of the day. She could not have guessed it would be America's all-time best-selling book, nor what a storm it would unleash. Fired, at least in part, by her story, a host of legendary figures now moved centre-stage as the US lurched towards war. But it would be the opportunity to end the country's Original Sin.

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor



Eastwood & District u3a Showcase

The u3a showcase is being held this year on **Wednesday October 1st** at our monthly meeting.

We would advise the group contacts that there will be no electrics supplied, and to please be in the church by 9.15 ready to set up your table for 9.45.

Anne Steel

Committee Roles

Roger Kidd has resigned as Chairman due to personal circumstances. We would like to thank Roger very much for his commitment to the role as Chairman and wish him well in his new endeavours.

Anne Steel (formerly Vice Chairman) was voted in as the new Chairman.

Mike Sheard was voted in as the new Vice Chairman.

Volunteers

Signing in: Eileen Exley, Janet Brown

Meet & greet: Heather Wright, Madeleine Fletcher

Setting up: Calvin Goreham, Rob Leam, Cecil Peters, William Moore

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Charlotte Oakley Georgina Hanson

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Patricia Whelan

From the Editor

Deadline for the **November** issue is **13th October**.

Any articles or photos should be emailed to me at newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

REMINDER: THERE IS NO OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Melanie Weston

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.

Monthly Speaker Review

Joe Colls stepped in as speaker at the last minute and he was very entertaining, and we gained a lot of knowledge and insight into **Elon Musk's SpaceX programme**.

It was founded by Elon Musk in 2002 with a vision of decreasing the cost of space launches. It has made numerous advances in rocket propulsion, reusable space vehicles and reducing the cost of space transportation.

Falcon 9: reusable rocket for transportation of people into Earth orbit and beyond.

Falcon Heavy: super heavy lift launch vehicle with partial reusability to carry cargo into Earth's orbit and beyond.

Dragon Spacecraft: capable of carrying up to seven passengers to and from Earth's orbit.

Starship: fully reusable lift launch vehicle designed to carry both crew and cargo into Earth's orbit and beyond.

SpaceX's ultimate goal is to have humans living on other planets. This definitely is rocket science and a vision of the future!

Anne Steel

5 Mile Walk

August

A very pleasant walk from Jacksdale Garden Centre along the remnants of the Cromford Canal to Aldercar Fishing Lakes. There were welcome refreshments at Maggie's Den, a well stocked café which the fishermen and women must really appreciate. The photo was taken at the remains of Black Bridge, a railway bridge that carried coal from the local mines over the canal on its way to Langley Mill and beyond. Thanks to Angie, Barbara and Pauline for leading this walk.



Maureen Ward

Rediscovering Nottingham

In July the Rediscovering Nottingham group visited the Lace Market to see the old buildings and to go inside St Mary's church. Everyone enjoyed this and finished with a coffee. There is a picture of the group on the steps of the Thomas Adam building and another of the buildings nearby.



Keith Sherwood

Poetry

Expectations

I expected a poem to appear
when I sat down and picked up my pen.
I had a vague line about stars
but my ideas felt dull and austere.

With twinkly and shiny and glowing,
well, others have written it all.
I wanted to think 'other worldly',
be soulful and full of deep meaning.

The stars have their own fascination.
A wonderment beyond belief.
The fact that the way we perceive them
is they're shadows of their incarnation.

The light from the stars takes for all time
to reach our incredulous eyes.
Explanations are beyond our drab thinking.
Who am I to relate that in rhyme?

I'll go back to easier contexts;
write about the humdrum and mundane.
Don't fret on the fact I'm not Shakespeare.
Keep a rein on the things I expect.

Pat Potter - Aug '25

Photography

The Photography Group's outing in July was to the workhouse at Southwell. There was a lot to see and members put up photos at the following monthly meeting of the outing as well as the monthly themes. It was very interesting to see the different aspects of the workhouse from living arrangements to the infirmary. In the school room those members getting out of order had to be brought in line by group contact Barbara.



Keith Sherwood

In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that I share the news of the death of Eric Midwinter, one of the visionary co-founders of the u3a movement in the UK.

Eric, alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young, established u3a in 1982 with the belief that later life should be a time of continued learning, connection, and contribution. Eric's commitment to challenging negative stereotypes of ageing, and to creating spaces for older adults to share skills, knowledge, and friendship, has shaped the lives of hundreds of thousands of u3a members over four decades.

Eric's vision has flourished over the years and we know that his legacy will continue to inspire new generations to embrace lifelong learning and positive ageing.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Eric's family and friends at this time.

You can watch a conversation between Eric and Liz Thackray about the movement, recorded in 2022 for our 40th Anniversary, on our YouTube Channel.

Best wishes,

Iain Cassidy
CEO of the Third Age Trust

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. Photos would also be brilliant.

We send articles every 2 months to 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](#)

u3a Short Story Competition

The u3a Short Story Competition is coming soon

I'm pleased to tell you that the Third Age Trust's annual Short Story Competition 2025 will be launched on Thursday 21 August. Details will be posted on the u3a Learning Activities webpage that day including a prompt to inspire your story.

As usual, the Trust is working with Bloomsbury Publishing who are providing generous prizes and one of the final judges, author Sara Grant. On Friday 3 October, Sara will conduct an online workshop to help you polish-up your story after it's been written. Details of how to enrol (free of charge for u3a members) will be in the September Creative Writing Newsletter.

The competition is open to all u3a members, not just those in Writing groups.

Art Appreciation -

July

Our July meeting was one of our 'Show and Tell' sessions which always entertain and educate us. We're just never sure what strange object might be brought in. Members bring an art related treasure from home and tell us a bit about it: the family story connected to it or the reason it was bought or the artist who made it, for example. Sometimes not a lot is known about the artefact so there is much 'Googling' as we turn detective.

This time we were shown hand painted ceramics and a quaich which is a Scottish sharing cup or cup of friendship. There was a limited-edition print of Brinsley showing important buildings such as the church and the pubs that existed till quite recently. One of the most unexpected items was a doormat! This was brought from Skye and was made of recycled rope that had been washed up on the beach and woven into a Celtic knot pattern. We thought that it should perhaps be hung on a wall.

Then as a complete contrast we had a lovely original painting of The Lemon Princess. This was used by the illustrator, Jane Ray in The Orchard Book of Magical Tales by Margaret Mayo. More prints were shown of flowers by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Then we saw the eye-catching sculpture happened across in Florence based on the tree of life by Andrea Roggi which was spectacular. Another print was by April White, a member of the first nation Haida people. Finally, we were introduced to Zentangle art, a relaxing and fun way to create abstract images by using repetition of simple shapes, dots, lines – some might call it doodling!

[Helen Baker](#)

History of England

We are currently talking about the 1930s. Phillip brought us **the Mitford Sisters**. This is a précis of what he found out:

Born into privilege and raised with eccentric flair, the 6 Mitford sisters made headlines across continents for their charisma, contradictions and, sometimes, sheer gall. They were very individual and left behind a legacy of brilliance, notoriety and scandal. They crossed paths with the likes of Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, John F Kennedy and many more politicians and cultural icons.

Diana (1910-2003) - beautiful society girl and fascist was connected to Hitler's inner circle. As a young woman she married Bryan Walter Guinness, 2nd Baron Moyne; a British aristocrat, writer, poet and heir to part of the Guinness family brewing fortune. They hosted the creative literary minds of their day in their fashionable home. Diana left Guinness and married Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists at the home of the propaganda minister for Nazi Germany, Joseph Goebbels, with Adolf Hitler as guest of honour. Fluent in German, Diana introduced the Nazi elite to the British aristocracy. Her political activities led to her arrest & imprisonment without trial during WWII, with authorities deeming her a national security risk. After the war Diana lived in exile in Ireland & then France. She published a controversial memoir and remained a polarising figure throughout her life.

Unity (1914-1948) was devoted to the Nazi cause. Conceived in a Canadian town called Swastika, with Wagner's Valkyrie as a middle name, Unity became obsessed with Adolf Hitler and Nazism in the 1930s. She relentlessly pursued Hitler's attention until she became part of his entourage, attending rallies and dinners at his side. She wore swastika-adorned badges and publicly praised Hitler's regime. When war broke out between Britain and Germany in September 1939, she tried to kill herself. Though she survived she was left with devastating injuries and mental impairment. She returned to England where she was cared for by her mother until her death at 33.

Nancy (1904-1973) was a writer, well known in British literary and social circles. None of the sisters had any formal education but Nancy's talent for quick wit, satire and observation plus her connections to other successful writers, helped her to become a bestselling novelist.

Jessica (1917-1996) was a communist journalist. She rebelled against her privileged background and was known as the 'red sheep'. She wanted to escape from her family and her background. She eloped with her 2nd cousin Edmond Romily to fight for the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War. Their marriage was a political and deeply personal act of rebellion against both their backgrounds. Edmond was killed in action during WWII. In 1943 Jessica married Bob Treuhaff, a fellow activist. Together they were strong in the American radical scene. Jessica joined the Communist Party in America.

We all know **Deborah** (1920-2014), the Duchess of Devonshire, steward of Chatsworth House. She revitalised the estate, restoring its grandeur. She had friends and relatives in high places. Her brother-in-law had been married to Kathleen Kennedy and Deborah maintained warm relations with the Kennedy family, attending both JFK's inauguration and funeral. Deborah was an Elvis super fan and created a shrine to him at Chatsworth.

Pamela (1907-1994) was the quietest sister, often called the 'rural Mitford', a term coined by Sir John Betjeman. She wasn't interested in the spotlight that shone on her sisters, preferring the company of animals, particularly chickens. She managed estates & was a celebrated cook.

There was also a (little known) Mitford brother. **Tom** (1909-1945) was killed in action in Burma. As a Nazi sympathiser, he was sent to fight in the Pacific after saying he did not want to fight against Germany. Diana maintained that he was a committed fascist, he had joined both her and Unity at Nazi rallies in Nuremberg throughout the 1930s. However, both Nancy and Jessica cast doubt on Tom's true beliefs.

Margaret Naylor

Church History

At the onset of last winter Ron provided us with a timeline of what was happening in the early church between 30 AD and about 600 AD. Ably assisted by George (as ever), we were presented with a list of the most significant people in the development of the Christian church in that period and as we have done before, we each agreed to research one or two people on the list. I think several of us had misgivings about the topic as it seemed very boring but we were in for a surprise! So much of interest happened in that period. We learned what happened to some of the apostles: Peter founded a church in Antioch and James founded a church in Jerusalem. Thomas (of Doubting Thomas fame) travelled as far as India & established a church there. From Peter's church in Antioch Paul & Barnabas took Christianity to Cyprus.

We investigated early translations of the Bible & learned a bit about the early martyrs such as Perpetua who defied her father for her faith & was dreadfully treated in prison, suffering intensely as she was not allowed to feed her baby and of Polycarp who was burned at the stake & stabbed when the fire failed to consume his body. We looked at the development of monasticism & particularly enjoyed investigating the British saints such as St David & St Ninian.

Because of holiday commitments we were only able to arrange one summer outing but that was a real treat. We were able to visit the Friends (Quakers) Meeting House. Deb gave us a wonderful talk about the history of the Quakers from George Fox onwards & she explained how he argued that God could be approached directly without any intermediary such as a priest. Their meetings are usually silent as they wait for God to speak to them personally. As the Quakers would not conform to the accepted teachings of the established church they were not allowed to be buried in churchyards so they bought their own burial grounds and we could see one at the back of the meeting place. It was a most thought-provoking visit which we shall remember for a long time.

Our autumn meetings start again in October when we shall be having a talk by the Rev. David Speed about Beauvale Priory and how three different people viewed the clash between the church and the state. Later in the year George will tell us about Celtic Christianity.

Marianne Chisholm

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

Key: Text highlighted in yellow means there is a change of information since last month's newsletter

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 0115 9134077

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

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

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

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

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

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 976342

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

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 16th October 2025**
Contact Melanie 07722 177820
Note: there is no September meeting.

Group Information

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

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 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 4th Tuesday of the month.
Contact Andrea Sadler on andreahsadler@gmail.com

Rediscovering Nottingham Group 2:
meets the 4th Friday of the month.
Contact Andrea Sadler on andreahsadler@gmail.com

Spanish: meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 10.00 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 2nd September @ 10.00 am at Cromford Mill Yard DE4 3RQ
For further information contact
Susan on 01773765484 / 07866 604450 or
Angela on 01773 786896

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

Day	1 st in the month	2 nd in the month	3 rd in the month	4 th 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
		10:00 Spanish		10:00 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		