



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



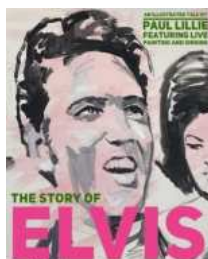
Monthly meeting

Wednesday 5th November 2025

Speaker: Paul Lillie

Subject: The Story of Elvis

Paul Lillie trained at Wimbledon School of Art and is currently Artist In Residence at Nottingham QMC and City Hospitals.



His unique mixture of art and music has proved a huge success in supporting the wellbeing and mental health of patients as part of the Hospital Trust's award-winning Arts programme.

His illustrated music talks include painting large scale images of his subjects and singing with his guitar. He discussed rock history with Simon Mayo on BBC Radio 5 as well as appearing on The One Show.

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor

December Monthly meeting

On the first Wednesday in December **Brinsley Community Choir** will sing for us at the Monthly Meeting. This will be followed by Christmas fayre including mince pies, cakes, sausage rolls and quiche plus tea/coffee. Members may bring their own non-alcoholic drink but please also bring a glass.

So come along, wear your glad rags - Christmas jumper, fancy jewellery, tinsel, paper hat etc.

Enjoy yourself!

Committee

Volunteers

Signing in: Sarah Gill, Margaret Naylor

Meet & greet: Barbara Ingall, Sue Parkin

Setting up: Andy Gill, Neil Hemsley

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson
Heather Wright, Jan Parnham

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 **December** issue is **17th November**. Any articles or photos should be emailed to me at newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Thank you for your November contributions.

Melanie Weston

Dates for the Diary

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Church, Church St., Eastwood.

Date	Speaker
3 rd December 2025	Brinsley Community Choir
7 th January 2026	Ian Morgan Inspector Hopkinson's Discovery
4 th February	Jack Perks Diary of a Wildlife Photographer

Wanted

We are looking for someone to do u3a publicity. This would involve putting any special notices on Facebook etc., e.g. our showcase event. If you are tech savvy and would like to assist in the promotion of our u3a branch please contact a committee member.

Thank you for your support.

5 Mile Walks

Our September walk along the Cromford Canal had a bit of everything:- fresh air, by the water, history, free apples and plums, buzzards, and views, as well as of course good exercise and good company.

The first part took us along the tow path to the Aqueduct Cottage where we were so lucky to be given a talk about its history and restoration by Ron, an instigator and volunteer. We were then allowed to take a look around the restored cottage. You can find out lots more about opening times, etc. online.

Before we set off for the second part the group split up, some went further along the tow-path and then back to the Mill. The rest of us went along the path towards John Smedley's Mill, then up a steep slope through the trees with lovely views across the canal and the A6. We passed Cromford station and the church and back to the Mill, just 5 miles.

Thank you to Linda and Sue for leading the walk.



Maureen Ward

KnitAid

Amazing KnitAid!

I asked for cardigans and toys for Ukraine and a nativity scene for a Christmas topper and of course the KnitAid members came up trumps - with a few extras thrown in.

We have room in the group if you want to come along - 3rd Thursday 10-12 noon @ Rumbletums. Wool supplied - and needles if necessary.



Margaret Naylor



Showcase Event

Our showcase event was held on Wednesday 1st October and it was a great success. There was a lot of activity around the 20 or so group contacts' tables promoting the diverse options available including Photography, Book Group, French Conversation and Family History. New members were made to feel welcome and Fred and Clint were on hand to ensure that things ran smoothly. The Gardening Group had a table and successfully sold their produce. There was also a lovely poppy display showing the contribution our enthusiastic u3a group members had made.

Very many thanks to the people who worked behind the scenes making sure that it all ran smoothly. Thanks to Linda and her refreshment team, who ensured that everyone had a continuous supply of tea, coffee and biscuits. Thanks to Ray and his gang ensuring that all the electrical equipment/projectors were working. Thanks to everyone who arrived early and left late to set up the tables. A big thank you to all the group contacts who were available on the day to promote their groups. Finally, a big thank you to Sharon (Group Co-ordinator) for organising the event and ensuring that everything went to plan.



Anne Steel



Rediscovering Nottingham

Interesting walk at Watson Fothergill buildings. This used to be a bank now Box Pub but still has all the decorative detail both inside and out.



Andrea Sadler

Rediscovering Nottingham

Photos from Rediscovering Nottingham's September's Tuesday walk which was from Wilford Bridge to Trent Bridge and, for those who were up to it, a walk back.



Keith Sherwood

5 Mile Walks

Wollaton Hall Park was the venue for October's walk led again by Heather. There was so much to see and lots of us took the opportunity to take photos of the hall, the deer, fungi and the trees starting to change colour. The most amazing thing for me were the thousands of sweet chestnuts and acorns underfoot.

Maureen Ward



Local History

At our October meeting, we had a fascinating talk by one of our members, Jim Stirland. He brought a lifetime of experience and knowledge to the presentation, and it was enhanced by a variety of photographs, maps, charts and information. He started by giving us a good background into the history of mining and the collieries in our area, and why it is imperative to have systems to pump water out. He described a specific project in the 1970s, which was undertaken to pump water from surrounding collieries to the Bentinck Colliery to manage flooding risks. A new pumping station was established at Bentinck, connected to other mines, like Babbington, Moorgreen and Pye Hill via drilled boreholes and pipes to create a new unified, drainage system. The water was then pumped to settlement lagoons and eventually discharged to the River Trent via a pipeline.

Jim brought in photographs to show the pipes underground and the lagoon. He explained how various materials like ochre and salt could cause problems and how they could be eliminated. This was the purpose of the lagoons, with an extra one for emergencies. The lagoons are still accessible as part of a nature reserve at Newstead Village. In the year 2000, the system was flooded and Jim explained that it would no longer be possible to re-use the mines after such a long time underwater.

We also learnt some really interesting facts about conditions for miners, including 98% humidity and the amazing fact that at the end of a shift, overalls would actually stand up by themselves!

We have had a very successful first year, and are planning our schedule for the next year, at the November meeting.



Underwater pipes leading into the water lodge



Final Lagoon at Newstead

Janet Lander

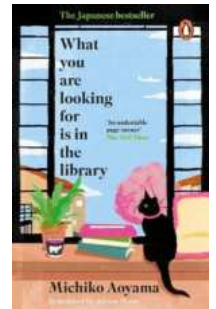
Book Group

September 2025

What you are looking for is in the Library

by Michiko Aoyama

The book received a score of 6, by the five members of the Book Club who attended the meeting.



The book had an unusual structure, there were five short stories which came together in the last story, where all the characters had a mention. The link in the stories was the Community Centre and Library and the characters in the stories went there and were referred to the librarian who recommended books to help them with their personal problems. The librarian was an enigmatic character who also made small felted toys which she gave to people fitting with the unusual book that she gave them.

We found the links to Japanese culture interesting and discussed whether the book would have been different if it was set in another country. It was also discussed that the description of the Librarian was unusually forthright and we wondered whether this was a Japanese cultural form. It was mentioned that the book had a certain amount of repetition and was written in a somewhat simplistic style.

We talked about novels that had had an effect upon our own lives, notably books about immigrants from Mexico and Syria, which worked to give us a more sympathetic view. The main theme of the book was that people shouldn't give up on their dreams.

The next meeting is on Monday October 6th where we will discuss our next book:

Three things about Elsie

by Joanna Cannon

Pauline Clayton

Monthly Meeting Guest Speaker Review

Our guest speaker on Wednesday 3rd September was Mike Burton (former journalist and Deputy Head) who gave a talk on the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. A fascinating insight into the impact of the novel on society at that time. It was one of the most influential books in history covering the slave trade and plantation owners. The cotton trade revolutionised the textile industry, and as plantations exploded, slavery expanded to fit the need. In 1850 the Abolitionist Law was the forerunner of the American Civil War. Britain ended slavery in 1833, but slavery was not abolished in the USA until 1865.

A very powerful talk about a novel that had a great impact on society.

Anne Steel

Group Information

If you have any ideas for new groups or need any further information please contact the group co-ordinators **Anne Steel** and **Sharon 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 Karen 07749 164039 or karenmrea@hotmail.com

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 20th November**
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 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 4th November @ Kimberley Water Tower, Swingate. 10:00m start.
Remember cash for Xmas meal. For further info 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	10:30 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		

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