



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for January 2026 newsletter – 15th December



December Monthly meeting
Wednesday 3rd December

Brinsley Community Choir will be singing for us followed by refreshments and a quiz. Members may bring their own non-alcoholic drink but please bring a glass.

10.00 - 10.15 Welcome and Notices
10.15 - 10.45 Brinsley Community Choir
10.45 - 11.45 Refreshments and Quiz
11.45 - 12.00 Close

Get your Christmas glad rags on and join us!

Membership Renewal

Renewal of membership is due by 1 April 2026.

We will be undertaking payments for your 2026 subscription from the January monthly meeting onwards.

Payment can now be made by: cash, cheque, card or bank transfer.

A Renewal Form must be completed whichever way you intend to pay.

These are available at the monthly meeting or you can download from our Website.

Dates for the Diary

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

Date	Speaker
7 th January 2026	Ian Morgan Inspector Hopkinson's Discovery
4 th February	Jack Perks Diary of a Wildlife Photographer
4 th March	David Templeman 2 Queens and a Countess

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 Meeting Guest Speaker Review

Our guest speaker on **Wednesday 5th November** was **Paul Lillie** who inspired us with his talk on Elvis. This was interspersed with quite a few of his most famous songs accompanied by the guitar all whilst painting a large portrait of the icon.

At the end of the talk one of our members decided to buy the painting.



Volunteers

Signing in: **Barbara Bailey, Janice Matthews**

Meet and Greet: **Doris Fellows, Bridget Kettle**

Setting up: **Rob Leam, Geoff Gratton**

Refreshments: **Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson, Marion Barnes, Janet Suggett**

Volunteer Co-ordinator - **Janet Lander**

From the Editor

Deadline for the **January 2026** issue is **15th December**. Please send all article and photo contributions to me at newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Thank you for your wonderful and continued support for our newsletter throughout 2025.

Merry Christmas to all u3a members and a Happy and Peaceful New Year!

Art Appreciation – October 2025

Art we do not understand

This intriguing suggestion for a topic was suggested by a member of our group who had really tried hard to understand the work of an artist she had come across, Cy Twombly. He is described as an Abstract Impressionist who, amongst others, produced some works he called 'Untitled' (so no clues there). These looked like chalk scrawls in lines, like writing, on black or grey backgrounds. One sold in 2015 for \$70+ million.

We all had a look at various examples of his paintings but were unable to help our member. It was thought by some that you can start to understand if you read the artist's intentions and explanations, but some wondered if they really wanted to do a lot of reading to get an explanation, and should you need to? Shouldn't an artwork speak for itself?



Other works we talked about included Tracey Emin's *My Bed* and Ai Weiwei's *Sunflower Seeds*, and just what was an exhibition of different sized brick walls trying to say?



All in all, a thought-provoking discussion which was much enjoyed even if we didn't leave any more enlightened.

Helen Baker

There's no need to feel *cold* and *lonely* this winter!
Feel free to come along to one of the local
WARM SPACES
for refreshments and a friendly chat.

MONDAY	
am	pm
9.00 am to 12 noon - Eastwood Library	12 noon to 6.00 pm - Eastwood Library
10.00 am to 12 noon - Tea & Coffee The Hub, Eastwood Baptist Church	12.30 to 1.30 pm - Warm Space Newthorpe Baptist Church
	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm - Free Tea & Coffee St. Mary's Church Food Club, Church St.
TUESDAY	
am	pm
9.00 am to 12 noon - Eastwood Library	12 noon to 1.00 pm - Eastwood Library
10.30 am to 11.45 am - Soup & Roll (Free 70+) Halo Café, New Horizon Church Free Tea & Coffee	
WEDNESDAY	
am	pm
10.30 am to 11.45 am - Soup & Roll (Free 70+) Halo Café, New Horizon Church Free Tea & Coffee	10.30 am to 2 pm - Free Food & Drinks Eastwood People's Initiative, Scargill Walk
THURSDAY	
am	pm
9.00 am to 12 noon - Eastwood Library	12 noon to 6.00 pm - Eastwood Library
10.30 am to 11.45 am - Soup & Roll (free 70+) Halo Café, New Horizon Church Free Tea & Coffee	2.00 pm to 3.30 pm - Free Tea & Coffee Places of Welcome, Eastwood Library
11.00 am to 1 pm - Free Soup & Roll Reach Church, Dora Phillips Hall	
FRIDAY	
am	pm
9.00 am to 12 noon - Eastwood Library	12 noon to 2.00 pm - Eastwood Library
	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm - Coffee and Chat Eastwood Baptist Church
	12.30 pm to 1.30 pm - Warm Space Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Hill Top (First Friday of the Month only)

Warm Space with Tea/Coffee to purchase

Jewellery

Some lovely pieces of jewellery were made again this month at The Hayloft. Over a coffee some of us made Christmas tree decorations using recycled jewels and ribbons as well as little gift charms to decorate presents.



Melanie Weston

Gogglebox

On Tuesday, we had a lively and wide-ranging discussion around the two programmes that we had watched this month. **M and S: Dress the Nation** had been appreciated more by some than others. Several members felt that it was an uneasy mix between The Sewing Bee and similar programmes, whereas others found the commercial element quite interesting. Most of us thought that some of the winning designs were not very likely to appear in our local M and S stores! A J Odudu and Vernon Kay were thought to be the best choice of presenters, and could sometimes be quite annoying.

The Hack was a fascinating story with strong performances from a range of well known actors. However, it could be difficult to keep track of the continuing story thread, as episodes alternated at first between the police murder investigation and the Guardian's own phone hacking investigation. We all felt that it would have benefited from editing, and clearer linking of the two stories. We agreed that it took real persistence to uncover some of the facts. In the programme, it was noted that, although The News of the World closed, The Sun on Sunday was launched soon after. It was felt that powerful people are often able to dodge the consequences of their actions

Next month, we will watch **The Forsytes** (Channel 5) and **Riot Women** (BBC1). Other recommendations are **Trigger Point** (ITV), **Under the Bridge** (ITV), **Celebrity Traitors** (BBC!) and **Solomon's Crossing** (Netflix).

Janet Lander

Poetry

November Leaves

Brown and gold with shades of red,
Mother Nature's autumn bed.
Blankets of colour cover the land
Where silent woodlands together stand.
Days draw in and nights are cold,
Nature's tale is brash and bold.
The North wind whispers, "it's time to sleep",
As winter days begin to creep.
First the frost, then ice and snow,
Tree roots resting far below.

Frances Lomax



Rediscovering Nottingham

The Rediscovering Nottingham group visited University Park (Highfields) in October to enjoy the grounds and learn the history, particularly of the involvement of Jesse Boot.

An enjoyable time was had by all.



Barbara Sherwood

Poetry

Christmas Musings

Do you see the Christmas lights
brightening the winter streets;
preparations for the Advent
of a Saviour all men seek?



Do you hear the carolling
from the church and shopping mall;
heralding a celebration,
peace on earth, goodwill to all?

Do you experience excitement
searching for a gift just right,
to delight on Christmas morning
wrapped in papers coloured bright?

Do you sense the deep emotion
as we raise a glass to those
we keep and cherish in our hearts;
family and friends we love the most?

Do you feel that every Christmas
through its whole kaleidoscope,
peace and love, just for a moment,
fill our hearts with ageless hope?

Pat Potter - Dec '24



5 Mile Walks

November's walk was a pleasant, steady walk from the Water Tower at Swingate to the Mulberry Tree at Strelley Hall.

There we enjoyed our refreshments and a good chat while Yvonne collected monies for our Christmas social at Beauvale Priory following our next walk on December 2nd. Many thanks to Barbara and Sue our walk leaders.



Maureen Ward

French Conversation

We have been looking at poetry amongst other things in some of our French Conversation meetings over the few months. One of our group, **Maureen Ward**, particularly enjoys Brian Bilston's poetry. In one of our November sessions she shared a brilliant translation she had made into French of his poem called Monetisation.

Here is her French version and the English version along side. Fab stuff!

Monétisation

L'annonce dit:
'MONÉTISER TES ADEPTÉS'
alors il a pensé
qu'il répondrait;

Il les a peints
dans la lumière changeante
comme les nénuphars
dans un étang.

Monetisation

The ad said
'MONETISE YOUR FOLLOWERS'
so he thought
he would respond;

by painting them
in the changing light,
like waterlilies
in a pond.

U3a 5 Mile Walks Programme 2025-2026

Programme is provisional and subject to change.

Other suggestions include Dale Abbey or Straws Bridge - West Hallam, if anyone wishes to change a venue.

NB: Please remember to carry a card bearing next of kin information.

Thank you.

Angie Shaw

Date	Walk	Leader
December 2025	Beauvale Priory Colliers Wood car park	Ivan
January 2026	Brinsley Headstocks car park	Maureen
February 2026	Shipley car park	Angie
March 2026	Attenborough Nature Reserve carpark	Heather
April 2026	Awsorth-Cossall park Newtons Lane	Sue, Barbara I
May 2026	Bluebell walk (possibly Strelley, TBA)	Ivan
June 2026	Durham Ox, Brinsley road parking	Barbara M, Pauline
July 2026	Linby-Newstead road parking	Angie
August 2026	Greasley Church park lay-by	Maureen
September 2026	Cromford Canal Mill car park	Linda
October 2026	Stoneyford Ponds park Jacksdale Garden Centre	Barbara, Pauline, Angie
November 2026	Trowell Garden Centre Bramcote Hills car pk	Heather
December 2026	Beauvale Priory	Ivan



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, 3 Friday April - September @ different member's garden each month.
Contact Sue susancarol44@btinternet.com 07866 604450

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 18th December**
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 2nd December @ Colliers Wood carpark for walk followed by lunch @ Beauvale Priory. 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		

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