

Items for the newsletter should be emailed to

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline for February 2026 newsletter – 19th January

Monthly meeting

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Speaker: Ian Morgan

Subject: Inspector Hopkinson's Discovery

The sad and tragic tale of one night's events in 1895. You are the jury in this true story of murder. Was Henry Wright guilty of calculated murder or was he insane? Using original archives and witness statements hear how one man tried bravely to save a family from a burning house and the discovery that was to shock a nation. Was Jack the Ripper at large once more? See if you agree with the original jury. Guilty or not?...and what happened next?



Speaker Finder: [Margaret Naylor](#)

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
4 th February	Jack Perks Diary of a Wildlife Photographer
4 th March	David Templeman 2 Queens and a Countess
1 st April	Lydia Leaf - Nearlyblindartist My Story - Art is my Anchor

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.

Volunteers

Signing in: Helen Baker, Christine Goreham

Meet and Greet: Pam Charity, Margaret Rawding

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Barbara Hall, Sarah Gill, Lorna Booth

Setting Up: Rob Leam, Calvin Goreham, Cecil Peters

Volunteer Co-ordinator: [Janet Lander](#)

From the Editor

Happy New Year to all!

Deadline for the **February 2026** issue is **19th January**.

Please send me all your wonderful article and photo contributions showcasing what you have been up to in your u3a groups over the last months.

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

[Melanie Weston](#)

Local History

Local History – Benjamin Drawwater 1742 - 1815

In December, we welcomed the Reverend David Speed, who talked to us about Benjamin Drawwater, who lived in Mansfield and Eastwood and is buried in Greasley churchyard. Reverend David had done an impressive amount of research into Benjamin's life and career, using a variety of resources.

Drawwater had a very interesting career and sailed with Captain Cook on his second expedition (1772 – 1775), exploring the coastline of Australia and reaching almost to the tip of Antarctica. It was a privilege to be included on Captain Cook's voyage, since he was already famous as an explorer, and the journey was very well equipped, including tools to produce fresh water out of salt water. Passengers included an artist, a botanist and scientists. Benjamin was employed as the surgeon's second mate and was able to assist the surgeon as well as learning the trade.

Captain Cook's voyage lasted a long three years and it is remarkable that only four men out of a total crew of two hundred and four died. This was mainly due to the rigorous hygiene methods employed by Cook and his use of sauerkraut and fresh fruit (where available) to prevent scurvy.

After this voyage, Drawwater was employed as a surgeon on different naval ships during the American War of Independence, before retiring to Eastwood, where he set up a practice. It is not known exactly where he lived in Eastwood, but we do know that he married the daughter of a local gentleman, Dorothy Toplis, so he must have been considered to be a man of a certain status. Her parents' graves are also in Greasley churchyard.



Janet Lander

Monthly Meeting Review

We had our Christmas u3a meeting on 3rd December. 118 members and 6 visitors attended. This was a good turnout, despite the Church Hall boiler deciding to be faulty on a very cold day!

The entertainment was the Brinsley Community Choir led by Charlotte Mendly. They were absolutely brilliant. There was audience participation, and we sang along to old favourites and modern carols. There was also a lively jive dance to one of the songs. We then had refreshments, followed by a Christmas quiz.

A very enjoyable morning. Many thanks to all our volunteers who made the day run smoothly including the kitchen helpers and tech team.



Anne Steel

Wine Appreciation

The group had their Christmas get together at The Nuthall inn. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed a dinner there and a good social occasion.



Barbara Sherwood

5 Mile Walks

December

We had our Christmas stroll around Colliers Wood followed by brunch at Beauvale Priory Tearooms. Bottomless tea and coffee with fabulous egg, bacon, sausage or veggie cobs and delicious chocolate brownies were provided especially for us. What a great start to this festive month.



Susan Wheatley

Photography

The Photography Group enjoyed their Christmas fuddle at Brinsley Parish Hall. Two photos per member were shown before the group enjoyed their fuddle prepared by group contact Barbara with willing helpers. Everyone had a great time.



Barbara Sherwood

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.

am	MONDAY	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.
am	TUESDAY	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		
am	WEDNESDAY	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
am	THURSDAY	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		
am	FRIDAY	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

KnitAid

Postbox toppers
out in Eastwood!

Crafty ladies at it
again!

Margaret Naylor



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
January 2026	Brinsley Headstocks car park	Maureen
February 2026	Shipley car park	Angie
March 2026	Attenborough Nature Reserve carpark	Heather
April 2026	Awsworth-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-coordinators **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.
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. **PLEASE NOTE: date for January is Thursday 8th.**
Contact Karen 07749 164039 or karenmrea@hotmail.com

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 15th January**
Contact Melanie 07722 177820

Group Information

KnitAid: meet in Rumbletums, Kimberley, 3rd Thursday @ 10-12.00 noon. **New Members welcome!**
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 6th January**
Meet @ Brinsley Headstocks carpark
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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