



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline for April 2026 newsletter – 16th March



Monthly meeting

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Speaker: David Templeman

Subject: Two queens and a countess

This is not the life stories of Bess, Mary or Elizabeth but an in depth talk on the interaction between the three most colourful and charismatic women in Elizabethan History - Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots and Bess of Hardwick.

A totally new perspective on these women and a unique insight into a predominantly man's world entered into and conquered by these three powerful icons. All women should be rightly proud of their achievements.

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor

U3a AGM

NOTIFICATION OF EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a AGM

The 12th Annual General Meeting of Eastwood & District u3a will be held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 during the monthly meeting. We're hoping to recruit new members to the committee. It's a great way to get to know more of the members and get involved. Please give this some consideration, as new ideas can bring a fresh approach.

Full details will appear in future newsletters. Descriptions of all committee roles can be found on the website. For more information you can speak to any current committee member.

<http://eastwoodu3a.org/committee/descriptions-of-committee-roles/>

Membership Renewal

Renewal of membership is due by 1 April 2026.

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.

Volunteers

Signing in: Maureen Ward, John Armstrong

Meet & Greet: Julie Matthews, Louise Cooke

Setting up: Geoffrey Gration, Rob Leam, Ann McGillivray

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Pat Furness, Kathleen Butler, Lynne Cooke

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Janet Lander

Dates for the Diary

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

Date	Speaker
1 st April	Lydia Leaf - Nearlyblindartist My Story - Art is my Anchor
6 th May	TBC
3 rd June	AGM followed by Marcus Alton Brian Clough
1 st July	Peter Rowlett Games and their analysis: from prehistory to today

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 any further information. They will be happy to assist you.

Naturewatch

NatureWatch is a new group which will meet on the 4th Monday of every month. The first meeting will be **Monday 23rd March.**

For further information contact Barbara on 07977 109451.

Fred & Clint

Fred and Clint are eager to come out of hibernation as they have been cooped up for a long time.

Are there any groups that they can join on their next adventure?

I know they had great fun when they went to the National Trust sites and on walks. Let us know and we can arrange for them to come too.

Thank you from two very sad little bears.



Group- Contacts

The Group contacts got together to discuss the issues facing all u3a groups. It was well attended and several good ideas were raised. These will be considered and any relevant proposals will be implemented in the forward planning.



Anne Steel

Book Group - February

Unsettled Ground by Claire Fuller

Many thanks to Janet who led the meeting and provided thoughtful challenging questions for discussion.

Quick synopsis of the book is the story of a mother who deliberately lied to her children, twins Julius and Jeanie now aged 51, and how this deception impacted on their lives after her death. Jeanie's life suffered most as she was told at an early age that she had heart failure and as a consequence was kept away from school and at the age of 51 could still neither read or write. After the death of their father, Julius was expected to look after his sister and be the breadwinner.

After their mother's death the siblings discover that their home does not in fact belong to them and they are in arrears with rent. They face eviction, nowhere to live and very little opportunity to make money. We discussed how easy it was to find yourself homeless through circumstances beyond your control and the difficulty in trying to find alternative accommodation. They were taken in by their mother's friend, but this did not work out and once again they were left on their own. The isolation of Jeanie from a normal childhood and school friends left her marginalised and unable to forge a life for herself. Her only talent was gardening and growing crops. Julius was also constrained by his responsibility to his sister with limited opportunity to enjoy a normal life although he did occasionally get some respite by "knocking off" the lady over the chip shop.

The twins were helped to varying degrees by friends and we considered whether we would help someone in similar trouble, bearing in mind that their circumstances were extreme with none of the usual hygiene facilities available to them.

Eventually their fortunes change and they are restored to their own home adapted by their mother's former lover to cope with Julius's injuries. It is finally revealed to Jeanie that her heart condition was a lie. We tried to understand why her mother would invent such a story. Was it due to selfishness or a means of protecting her children.

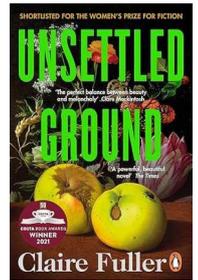
The book was an easy read in spite of the depressing story line and members said they would consider reading another by the same author.

Score 8/10.

Book for March *The Bookbinder of Jericho* by Pip Williams

Recommended Books *3 Days in June* by Ann Tyler

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt



Sue Draper

Visual Impairment

Macular Degeneration and Other Visual Impairments Support Group

This group meets at **Eastwood Town Hall** on the **last Tuesday of the month** from **10.30 to 12.30**.

Cost is **£2.00** and includes tea and biscuits and an activity/speaker.

Everybody is welcome and support is available.

Canasta

We have a **Canasta** group and below is a quick guide to the rules of this interesting card game. There is also a video clip on YouTube for beginners to grasp!

Canasta is a 4-player, partnership rummy-style game using two 52-card decks + 4 jokers.

The goal of the game is to score 5,000 points by creating "melds"—sets of 3 – 7 cards of the same rank.

A 7-card set is a "Canasta".

Teams earn points by creating canastas and going out first to end the round.

Art Appreciation

Month	Topic	Lead
16 March	Andy Warhol	Helen - hoping to arrange follow-up visit to Djanogly Gallery for an exhibition of his work
20 April	Rossetti	Janet L
18 May	Pugin	Group visit to St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham to learn about the work of Pugin
15 June	Bloomsbury Group	Margaret N

Janet Lander

From the Editor

Deadline for the **April 2026** issue is **16th March**. Please send me all your wonderful contributions showcasing what you have been doing so new members get a feel for the groups. Thank you.

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Melanie Weston

5 Mile Walks Programme 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
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

Local History

Brinsley Pubs

At our February meeting, we had a fascinating talk with slides, presented by one of our own members - Helen Baker. She used the booklet *Brinsley Pubs* by Ztan Smith (real name Stan Smith!) as background, and entertained us with amusing anecdotes.

We learned that at one time there were pubs everywhere in Brinsley, including The Jolly Collier, The Clinton Arms, New Inn, The Robin Hood, The Yew Tree, The White Lion and the Prince of Wales. Pub licences which had been required from the 1500s were abolished in the 1830s and led to this sudden proliferation of hostelries. Understandably, the licences were re-instated some 40 years later.

Gradually, as landlords retired, some of the pubs were closed down. A few were demolished like the Clinton Arms and the Jolly Colliers (no photos have survived), others like the Yew Tree and New Inn were converted into public residences, and three are currently still operating – The Durham Ox, Brinsley Lodge and the White Lion (now The Lion)

It was pointed out that these hostelries would have been very popular and that miners would be really thirsty after a day down the mines. At one establishment, it was said that 30 glasses were already poured and waiting on the counter for the first customers.

Quite a few of the landlords moved from one pub to another, and interestingly, there are instances of women being the official licensees.

We learned that the Durham Ox had the reputation of being haunted – it was said that a glass of beer levitated on its own, and the beer cellar was best avoided, due to its unpleasant previous usage to store corpses. In the past, pubs were often used for a variety of different purposes, including inquests and auctions.



The Durham Ox



The Yew Tree

Next month, we will discuss Local Business, including factories and potteries.

Janet Lander

5 Mile Walks

February – Shipley Park

A lovely snowdrop walk on a chilly morning.



French Conversation

At a recent French Conversation group the theme was to discuss what books we had enjoyed. There was a wide variety of genres, fiction, non fiction, classics, sports etc. They encompassed all the emotions, love, revenge, loss, humour, and it was great fun. *Slow Horses* by Mick Herron, *Frankie* by Graham Norton, *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas, *Chasing Jessop* by Simon Wilde.

Lors d'une récente réunion de notre groupe de conversation française, le thème était de discuter des livres que nous avons aimés. Il y avait une grande variété de genres : romans, essais, classiques, livres de sport, etc. Ils abordaient toutes les émotions: l'amour, la vengeance, le deuil, l'humour... et c'était très amusant. Parmi les titres évoqués : *Slow Horses* de Mick Herron, *Frankie* de Graham Norton, *David Copperfield* de Charles Dickens, *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* d'Alexandre Dumas et *Chasing Jessop* de Simon Wilde.

Anne Steel

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

Board Games: meet in The Hayloft 2nd Thursday @ 1.30-3.30
Contact Nina 01773 717770

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 @ 11:00 am
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, 3rd 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 Thurs @10.00am
Contact Karen 07749 164039 or karenmrea@hotmail.com

Group Information

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 19th March**
Contact Melanie 07722 177820

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

Naturewatch: meet on 4th Monday. **Starts 23rd March.**
Contact Barbara 07977 109451 for further information.

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 @ 7.00 pm 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 3rd March Meet @ Attenborough Nature Reserve carpark**
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			Naturewatch
		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 Board Games	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.