



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to  
[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)  
Deadline for May 2026 newsletter – 20<sup>th</sup> April



### Monthly meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

**Speaker:** Lydia Leaf

**Subject:** "My talk will be about my ancestral inspiration as I develop as an artist."

"Art has been my lifeline, an anchor during the storms. A childhood illness that saw me hospitalised, Steven Johnson's Syndrome, remained dormant in my body until I was in my mid 40's where it played out with chronic eye problems, blistering skin and muscular issues.

Other things have happened in my life which have had negative impacts on my emotional and physical wellbeing but with therapeutic help I manage to navigate a way through those waters and see the beauty and the abundance in my life. Having a project to work on gives me the opportunity to focus my thoughts and intentions and transform feelings of grief and overwhelm into something more peaceful and manageable."

**Speaker Finder:** *Margaret Naylor*

### 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:** Sue Draper, Helen Baker

**Meet & Greet:** Heather Wright, Wendy Rowley

**Setting up:** Rob Leam, Jeannette Wilson, William Moore

**Refreshments:** Linda Lambert, Madeleine Fletcher, Suzanne Kirk

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** *Janet Lander*

### u3a AGM

#### NOTIFICATION OF EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a AGM

The 12th Annual General Meeting of Eastwood & District u3a will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

### Dates for the Diary

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

Date	Speaker
6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Simon Croson</b> The Beekeeping Year
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>AGM</b> followed by <b>Marcus Alton</b> Brian Clough
1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Peter Rowlett</b> 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.

## Committee Member Roles

The Trustees have been asked to provide information on the roles of the committee which need to be filled at the AGM, including time commitments.

The full descriptions of the roles are on the website.

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### OFFICERS

#### Chairman

##### Monthly Meeting 3 hrs per month + prep time.

Chair the main monthly meeting: plan the meeting agenda in advance; ensure the meeting starts and ends on time, proper introductions are made and thanks given; at the end of the meeting ensure either directly or indirectly that the premises are left in the original state and the building is secure.

##### Committee Meeting 2-3 hrs per month + prep time.

Chair committee meetings: plan the meeting agenda in advance with the Business Secretary; ensure the meeting starts and ends on time; all necessary business is covered; discussions involve everybody and are not dominated by a few people; discussions remain focussed on the stated agenda items; clear decisions are reached following a unanimous or majority vote of the committee; a timetable for implementation of actions/decisions is agreed.

##### AGM 3 hrs per year + prep time

Write a Chair's report for the Annual Report and Accounts and ensure the final draft of the Annual Report is presented to the committee for approval in good time prior to the AGM.

Ensure that the meeting is chaired and that the business of the meeting is conducted according to laid down procedures and any existing standing orders.

#### External Contacts

Notts network 2-3 hours per month

External meetings as required.

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#### Vice Chairman

Monthly Meeting, Committee Meeting, AGM etc. See under Chairman for time commitments. Deputise for the Chair in his/her absence. Assist the Chair in organising special events. Act as a sounding board for the Chair.

The Vice Chairman will also be allocated other roles within the Committee.

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#### IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICERS THERE ARE OTHER IMPORTANT ROLES WHICH NEED TO BE FILLED

### COMMITTEE ROLES

#### Groups coordinator

To facilitate the setting up of new interest groups through supporting and advising the Group Contacts and ensuring good communications between group members, the committee and the u3a as a whole.

Monthly Meeting, Committee Meeting, AGM etc see under Chairman for time commitments; Organise group contacts meeting 2 -3 hrs every 4-6 months + prep time; Liaising with groups/members - time as required.

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### OTHER VACANT ROLES

#### Health & Safety Coordinator

#### Projects/Development Officer

#### Publicity Coordinator

#### Web master

### From the Editor

**Deadline** for the **May 2026** issue is **20<sup>th</sup> April**. Please email articles and photos showcasing what you have been doing so new members get a feel for the groups. Please use the address below. Thank you so much for all your contributions.

[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org).

*Melanie Weston*

## Creative Writing

### A cream button with matching embroidery thread

Margaret was beginning to get worried. Charlie had been gone too long now.

She had spent the day alone, but not lonely. Her two children had both called for a chat, and she had rung a couple of friends from her list of numbers. They reminded her of times they had spent together, and the silly things they had done when they were younger. She had found herself some bread and cheese for lunch, read a few pages from one of the library books piled beside her glasses on the coffee table, then fallen asleep in her comfortable chair for a few hours.

Now the afternoon light was dimming, and Charlie was still not back. She would go to meet him before the sun set completely.

The wardrobe in her little bedroom was overfilled with clothes. She hated to get rid of outfits that had played important roles in long forgotten events – weddings, gala nights, meals at the captain's table on the cruises they had enjoyed for a while, until their charm began to fade and become repetitious. She still dressed well, to keep up appearances, so to speak, so chose the dark grey trousers, polo sweater, and the lovely cream jacket with a thin grey stripe. Now, when did she get that jacket? It must have been over forty years ago. It was after the children had left home – she couldn't have justified buying such a frivolous thing when money was tight, when she and Charlie were still supporting the boys through school, apprenticeships and university.

She smiled at her reflection in the mirror. She didn't look too bad for her age, she thought with a smile, but, as she glanced down, she noticed the top button of her jacket was loose. When had she last worn it? It must have been weeks ago. The button would have been lost if she hadn't mended it. She remembered she had found a length of embroidery cotton, just the right colour for her jacket, in her sewing basket, left over from a nursery picture she had stitched when her granddaughter was born. How long ago was that?

Margaret stepped out of the front door and pulled it shut behind her. She noticed she was still wearing her slippers. She thought about going back inside, but was not going to be away long, and anyway, the slippers were more comfortable than her shoes.

Reaching the bench in the park where they always stopped to rest, she sat quietly as the half-light draped nearby trees and hedges in a soft indigo shadow. Charlie would be here soon.

Her arthritic fingers played with the loose button. She remembered when she bought the jacket. It

was for their big trip to Australia. Both boys had left home, and she and Charlie decided they could now have 'their' time together, alone.

With no idea how to organise such a holiday, they had put together a list of 'must see' destinations and taken it to a travel agent in the city who had put together an itinerary that met all they had imagined, and more. The cream linen jacket was perfect for every occasion: casual enough for the paddleboat trip down the Murray River with denim and plimsolls; smart enough over the silky floating dress for a show at the Sydney Opera House; and handy to slip over her shoulders in the steamy heat of Far North Queensland.

They had had such memorable times together. Now she was waiting for Charlie so that they could take their next adventure.

Here he was! She could see him in the distance. She smiled and closed her eyes, the little cream button, still hanging on to the jacket by a skein of embroidery thread, clutched tightly in her hand.

*Ann McGillivray*

## Art Appreciation - February

We had a lovely morning discussing the art of photography with two of our very own. Ernie and Les from the Photography group joined us bringing fine examples of their work. There were some very impressive pieces of art and we were very impressed with the quality of photos made just using mobile phones. They patiently answered lots of questions. We wanted to know what inspired them, how many they took to get a good one, what made a good photograph, what equipment they used and lots more.

We then shared our own photos of various sorts: some family snapshots, some professional, some meaningful.

Thank you, Ernie and Les for taking time out from your snapping.

*Helen Baker*

## Art Appreciation

Month	Topic	Lead
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*

## Gogglebox

This month's Gogglebox meeting was fully attended and was a lively and enjoyable meeting.

Firstly we discussed **Michael Palin in Venezuela**. Overall, we enjoyed Michael's dry sense of humour, but also commented on how frail he was looking at 81 years old. We appreciated that he and his team have made various documentaries, in what most people would think of as dangerous countries. We compared the documentaries that Michael Portillo has made in much safer places - and much brighter clothes! We commented how the local people interviewed were very open about the situation in Venezuela, and how it affected them in day-to-day living, and we felt a little concerned about their safety because of this. It is obviously a very unsafe place to live, although the scenery was absolutely breathtaking, and the local people were trying to do their best to show off how beautiful their country was. Some of our members had seen the Michael Palin in the Nigeria and Iraq documentaries, and although struck by the lack of women portrayed in these programmes, not surprised.

Our second choice to discuss this month was **After the Flood series 2**. We started by discussing that it may have been difficult to follow this series if you had not watched series 1. Series 2 follows directly on from series 1 continuing the story of Jo Pat, and the lives and events of the people around them. A selection of us preferred series 2, whilst others

found series 1 more gripping. We discussed how some of the clues to a murder were totally overlooked by the police, and how annoying this was. Also, there seemed to be a lot of threads in the second series which felt like they were tied up very quickly right at the end in the last episode. Lorraine Ashworth, who played a central character in the series, was felt to be 'overused' at the moment, popping up in lots of current TV. We did agree that she is a brilliant actress though, despite being everywhere at the moment!

We also had a chance to discuss other programmes that we had been watching over the last month, and some of us felt that we had watched more television than usual due to the wet weather!

There was mention of the **Pottery Throwdown** which many members much enjoy. We talked of how emotional and enjoyable it was. There was definitely encouragement for the rest of us to watch it, and it came highly recommended.

We also discussed **Derry Girls**, which again has been watched by some of our members. Once again this was highly recommended. **House** was another recommendation.

In March, we will discuss **Small Prophets** (BBC 1) and **The Lady** (ITV).

A big thanks to everyone who attended.

*Ruth Brown*

## 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
April 2026	<b>Awsworth-Cossall</b> park Newtons Lane	Sue, Barbara I
May 2026	<b>Bluebell walk</b> (possibly Strelley, TBA)	Ivan
June 2026	<b>Durham Ox, Brinsley</b> road parking	Barbara M, Pauline
July 2026	<b>Linby-Newstead</b> road parking	Angie
August 2026	<b>Greasley Church</b> park lay-by	Maureen
September 2026	<b>Cromford Canal</b> Mill car park	Linda
October 2026	<b>Stoneyford Ponds</b> park Jacksdale Garden Centre	Barbara, Pauline, Angie
November 2026	<b>Trowell Garden Centre</b> Bramcote Hills car pk	Heather
December 2026	<b>Beauvale Priory</b>	Ivan

**Local History**

In March, we researched local businesses in our localities. One member told us about the **Langley Mill and Aldercar Model Dairy**, which was built in the 1930s by Frank Sisson and Sons, and run by the North East Midlands Co-operative Society. It was demolished around 1985 and is now the site of a housing development. Her father in law, Joe, had worked there as a milkman from the age of 14, progressing from a three wheeled barrow to a horse drawn milk cart. One Christmas, Joe had too much to drink, and his horse, Peacock, took him back home!



**Wolsey** in Kimberley took up both sides of Factory Lane, now renamed Greens Lane, which is the site of the current Sainsbury's supermarket and the adjoining precinct. It was originally named as the Victoria Mills Factory and was built in 1880, but taken over by Wolsey in the 1920. At one time, it was one of the major employers in the region and whole families would have worked there, including the grandfather of one of our members.

Many employees were bussed in from local areas as well. The factory specialised in producing underwear and hosiery, and their underwear was worn by Polar Explorers, Captain Scott, Roald Amundsen and Ernest Shackleton. Local pubs and shops thrived, but with the coming of cheap imports,



business declined and the two factories closed in 1983 and 1985, and the new supermarket was built. Some of our members worked there for a time and found the work very tedious, but they did remember the camaraderie amongst the staff.

**Giltbrook Tannery.** The Ikea residential site was most recently the location of Bonser Engineering, which closed in 1981, but before that there was a factory of the "Compressed Leather Company" on the site, established in 1756 by Thomas Bayley. It created a variety of footwear and was a large local employer, using its proximity to the Gilt Brook. All work was by hand and involved sorting and pulping, before being poured into frames to be compressed and dried. It was a very smelly process, and it was said that workers found it hard to rid themselves of this persistent smell. Workers started at 7.30 and continued until 5.30, with one break.

**Aristoc,** Langley Mill. Another hosiery company was founded by Albert Allen in 1919 and a large factory built in Langley Mill. Its name was based on its product being "a stocking of breed and character. Truly an Aristocrat in every sense of the word" During the war, it changed production to items like barrage balloons and inflatable dinghies. The business was built by Courtaulds, which continued until 2000 and the factory was demolished in 2002. Again, it was a very large local employer.

**Eastwood Pottery** was established under the name of Mellor Bros/Jepson in the early 1880s. It specialized in salt glaze ginger beer bottles and ink wells, which children used to dig up and take home in the 1950s. It was based on Lynncroft, which locals called the canyons as it was very hilly and wild, with lots of scrubland, hedges and grass. It had 4 bottle kilns in 1900, but there was a serious fire in 1888, which eventually led to their demolition, and the pottery finished production in 1908.

Thanks to all members who provided information and reminiscences. Next month, we will have a presentation by Alan Stonebanks about The History of Trams/ The Ripley Rattler.

*Janet Lander*

## 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](mailto: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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 10:30 am. **New members welcome!**  
Contact Helen 07535 785061

**Board Games:** meet in The Hayloft 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 1.30-3.30  
Contact Nina 01773 717770

**Book Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday @ 11.00 am in Eastwood Library.  
Contact Sue 01773 717676 or Pauline 01773 788366

**Café Culture** meet in various venues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 10.30 a.m.  
Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

**Canasta:** meet in The Hayloft 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 11:00 am  
Contact Nina 01773 717 770

**Church History:** Meets in Rumbletums 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday @ 1:00 pm  
Contact Marianne 0115 9134077

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

**Creative Crafts:** meet in Rumbletums 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 1-2.30 pm.  
Contact Margaret 07828 155086

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

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

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

**General Gardening Club:** meet 2:30 – 4:30, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, April - September @ different member's garden each month.  
**Contact Sue [susancarol44@btinternet.com](mailto:susancarol44@btinternet.com) 07866 604450**

**Gogglebox:** meet in The Hayloft on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 11.00 – 12.30 pm.  
Contact Janet 07889 976342

**History of England:** meet in The Hayloft, 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs @10.00am  
Contact Karen 07749 164039 or [karenmrea@hotmail.com](mailto:karenmrea@hotmail.com)

## Group Information

**Jewellery Making:** meet in The Hayloft 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
Contact Melanie 07722 177820

**KnitAid:** meet in Rumbletums, Kimberley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 10-12.00 noon. **New Members welcome!**  
Contact Margaret 07828 155086

**Local History:** meet in Brinsley Parish Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @ 10:30 – 12:00  
Contact Janet 07889 976342 [janet\\_lander@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janet_lander@yahoo.co.uk) or Julie Matthews 07929 914230 [juliemattuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliemattuk@yahoo.co.uk)

**National Trust:** meet in The Dog & Parrot on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month @ 10.00 am.  
Contact Yvonne 07951 886195

**Naturewatch:** meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 10.00 am.  
**New members, beginners & enthusiasts all welcome.**  
Contact Barbara 01773 786004 or 07977109451

**Psychology:** meet in Rumbletums on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 1.00 pm.  
Contact Jim 07977 415 072 or Diana 0115 9169343

**Pub Pals:** meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month @ 7.00 pm in various locations  
also 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month @ 12 noon in various locations.  
Contact Janet 07961 832864 or Rob 07845 177500

**Rediscovering Nottingham Group 1:** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
Contact Andrea Sadler on [andreahsadler@gmail.com](mailto:andreahsadler@gmail.com)

**Rediscovering Nottingham Group 2:** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.  
Contact Andrea Sadler on [andreahsadler@gmail.com](mailto:andreahsadler@gmail.com)

**Spanish:** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> April Meet @ Newtons Lane Awsworth**  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday.  
Contact Chris 07779 375865

Day	1 <sup>st</sup> in the month	2 <sup>nd</sup> in the month	3 <sup>rd</sup> in the month	4 <sup>th</sup> 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		

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