



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for June 2026 newsletter – 18th May



Monthly meeting

Wednesday 6th May 2026

Speaker: Simon Croson

Subject: The Beekeeping Year

Simon's talk takes the audience through the seasonal activities of both bees and beekeeper in a typical year and how those activities synchronise with the living environment around the bees.



Speaker Finder: *Margaret Naylor*

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 June	AGM followed by Marcus Alton Brian Clough
1 st July	Peter Rowlett Board games and their analysis: from prehistory to today

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/>

Volunteers

Signing in: Christa Swanwick, Christine Goreham

Meet & Greet: Sue Parkin, Barbara Ingall

Setting up: Rob Leam, Calvin Goreham,
Richard Walker

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson,
Sue Whittamore, Estella Barnes

Volunteer Co-ordinator: *Janet Lander*

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.

Local History

At our April meeting, Alan Stonebanks gave a very interesting presentation about the history of trams in the Nottingham area. The first public passenger transport was provided in 1848 by a horse-drawn bus service between the Midland Railway Station and Nottingham town centre. An experimental steam tram engine with a double deck trailer to Basford proved to be short-lived and only lasted from 1883 to the subsequent year. In 1889 Nottingham was permitted to construct and operate electric trams and the first 12 electric double decker trams were ordered in 1900 / 1, with the order finally increased to 57. The first service opened on 1st January 1901 and was 2 miles long. The routes were gradually extended until 1907. Although no passengers died during these years, there were three linked fatalities. One man ran in front of the tram in foggy weather, a woman was knocked over by a horse bus and a four-year old boy misjudged his attempt to cross in front of an electric tram, and was mowed down by it.

Destination boards were not illuminated, so a system of coloured lights was used at night to distinguish different journeys. Horse trams were used during the period from 1878 to 1895 and electric trams between 1900 to 1927. By 1926, the increase of car ownership and considerable competition from buses (which were considered to be more comfortable) led to the gradual closure of the tram lines. In 1936, the last tram ran to Annesley and trolley buses (using wires, but not tracks) and buses took over.

More recently, NET has built a modern network of lightweight trams to service commuters into Nottingham, and uses much of the same routes. There has been talk of extending current routes to Eastwood and further to Derby, or to take them beyond Clifton or Toton. However, there is always controversy about any further extensions, and considerable expense involved. It was noted that tram usage is now busy again, but has not quite reached its pre-Covid levels. We also noted that the coming of the trams had not been welcomed by those house owners whose property were often in very close proximity and adversely affected by noise and traffic.

Alan talked specifically about the "Ripley Rattlers", the trams which gained their name because they went to Ripley, and they rattled as they went! Visitors to nearby Crich Tramway Museum will see that the old trams have been lovingly restored and are immaculately clean, but contemporary reports give a different impression. The Ripley route was considered to be the most dangerous in England, and the trams were often very dirty, and would be travelling through towns which were full of pollution



from local factories and mines, and passing through a grim industrial landscape. Homecoming miners had free transport, but had to sit upstairs, since they were still in their grimy work clothes. At our next meeting, we will learn about the Pentrich Revolution, led by Jim Stirland.

Janet Lander

Gogglebox

At our March meeting, we discussed *The Lady* and *Small Prophets*.

We discussed whether Fergie was still living with Andrew, and concluded that until recently she had been, at least in the same residence, Royal Lodge. Everyone had enjoyed the programme, and it brought back nostalgia for the 1980s. It seemed obvious from the start that Jane was suffering from a personality disorder, which was exacerbated/ caused by events in her past. It was shocking to see how abruptly she was dismissed from her job, and clearly this had significant consequences for her. One of the group had also watched a documentary about the events, and the series had been faithful to the key facts. As an aside, we were also reminded about how awful Fergie's dress sense was. A tragedy carried out in the full publicity of the media glare.

Most of the group had really enjoyed *Small Prophets*. McKenzie Crook has a very distinctive writing style, and there were echoes of *The Detectorists* in this, in its use of wry and whimsical humour. The characters are eccentric and often situations develop in bizarre and unexpected ways. The mugging ends in a most unexpected manner, when the would-be mugger mistakes Michael for Santa Claus. One of the group is a long-time fan of *The Detectorists* and thought this was not quite as good, but everyone was pleased that there will probably be a second series. The whole idea of the homunculi is fairly extreme, and it is difficult to see how that could continue to be included.

In **April**, we will discuss: *Power: The Fall of Hugh Edwards* (Channel 4) and *The Other Bennett Girl* (BBC1)

Janice Matthews

Nature Watch

The Nature Watch group had its first meeting at the end of March at Highfields. 16 members attended and had an enjoyable time.

As this was early in the season we were delighted to see signs of Spring, with the trees coming into leaf and early flowers appearing.

Squirrels and rabbits were abundant in the woods.

The lake was busier than we expected with Mallards, Canada Geese, Swans, Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Moorhen , Merganser, Red Crested Pochard and 2 Egyptian geese with their baby.



Nature Watch



From the Editor

Deadline for the **June 2026** issue is **18th May**. Please email all contributions to the address below. This month has been a bumper issue!!!

Thank you.

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Melanie Weston

Barbara Sherwood

Art Appreciation

April - Rossetti

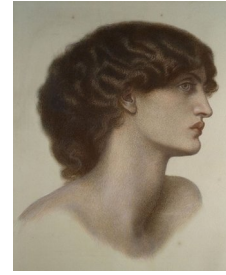
Janet Lander did a presentation about Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Named after the famous 13th poet Dante Alighieri, who wrote The Divine Comedy, Rossetti was the son of an Italian exile and Professor of Italian. He was brought up with a deep love of literature, and was torn between becoming an artist or a poet. In the end, he became both, but it is as an artist that he is well known today. He was a founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, which he formed in 1848, along with William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais. They were rebelling against the staid and artificial approach of the Royal Academy, and wanted to re-establish art as uplifting, incorporating noble subjects. They were drawn towards medieval times and often featured scenes from legends and literature. They had a focus upon realism, using models and painting outdoors. Many of their paintings are very detailed and their bright colours are due to their practice of painting onto a white ground.



By 1854, the founder members were ready to go their own way. Rossetti began a collaboration with William Morris, who went on to found the Arts and Crafts movement. He began to create the portraits, for which he is most famous – of “stunners”, using real-life models, and focusing upon close ups of them in lavish costumes, often representing legendary characters. One of his models was Lizzie Siddal, an aspiring poet and artist, whom he later married. When she died of an overdose in 1862, he was overcome with remorse and grief, and continued to paint her obsessively. Later on, he became entangled in a ménage à trois with William Morris's wife, and Jane Morris became his most famous muse. In his last years, he became addicted to chloral hydrate, which had initially been prescribed to treat insomnia and health anxiety, and died a sad recluse. His paintings were initially scorned, but more recently, they have gained enormously in value and can be seen in most major art galleries. Pre-Raphaelite art is now much collected, and Andrew Lloyd Webber has a very substantial private collection.



Beata Beatrix



Jane Morris



Astarte Syriaca

Janet Lander

March - Andy Warhol

At our March meeting we had a presentation on Andy Warhol in preparation for our visit to see an exhibition of his work. We learned about his life; he was the son of Slovakian parents, grew up in New York and was a devout catholic, he was gay and wore wigs to cover his hair loss. He survived a near fatal shooting at his Factory.

We looked at examples of his work, mostly screen prints, such as the Campbell's soup tins, the dollar sign, Marilyn Monroe and self-portraits.

He was one of the most prolific artists of his time and ventured into performance art, film making and video installations, though it is his Pop Art for which he is most renowned.

The exhibition was at The Djanogly Gallery at Lakeside Arts. It showed works from across his career: drawings, screenprints, photography and examples of his work from when he was an illustrator for fashion magazines at the beginning of his career.

It was great to see the iconic works such as the Marilyn Monroe diptych in the flesh as it were, the Campbell's soup box and his self portrait from 1986 not long before his death, showing him in one of his increasingly bizarre wigs.

Helen Baker

Art Appreciation

Month	Topic	Lead
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