



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for September 2026 newsletter – 17th August



Monthly meeting

Wednesday 5th August 2026

Speaker: Elaine and Julia

Subject: The Potty Plotters

Pottering with The Potty Plotters...two crazy ladies who are bonkers about everything allotmenty! They love to encourage others to have a go at growing, sharing hints and tips to keep everything simple intermingled with fun and frivolity!

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor

Health and Safety

Kitchen

The two queue system for tea and coffee system worked very well at the meeting, so we will adopt this from now on. In the kitchen, we are aiming to keep everyone safe by limiting volunteers to only three whilst hot drinks are being served. There is a poster up to remind everyone. We will provide water on the counter, in addition to tea and coffee as usual, so that no-one needs to enter the kitchen during the refreshments period.

Trips

We are very fortunate in Eastwood U3A to have volunteers who organise trips for us. The National Trust group is very popular and everyone really enjoys the days out. Due to the age of the properties, however, there may sometimes be access issues and these will be clearly explained by the Group Contact, so that everyone can decide if that particular trip is for them. If you feel that you would need extra support on a trip, then there is a system whereby an extra person can come along to support you, and gain free admission to a property, without needing to belong to the National Trust. They would still need to pay for their space on the coach. If you would like to explore this option, then please talk to one of the committee or the National Trust Group Contact.

Volunteers

Signing in: Pam Charity, Madeleine Fletcher

Meet & Greet: Jeannette Wilson, Mick Browne

Setting up: Rob Leam, Chris Garratt, Dave Garratt

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Diana Pigeon,
Bronwen Hayes, Georgia Hanson

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Janet Lander

From the Editor

Deadline for the **September 2026** issue is **17th August**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Your effort is really appreciated by all the members.

Please email all contributions, whether articles or photos, to the address below. **Please make sure that you have all permissions for photos of group members and that any other photos or pictures you send are royalty free.**

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Melanie Weston

Dates for the Diary

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

Date	Speaker
2nd September	David Price Kicks and Frills: the Story of the French Cancan
7th October	Peter Nickless Why Older People Should Write a Memoir for Their Family
4th November	Philip Drabble Travels with a Tiger - Riding the Western Front

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.

Proposed new group

Local history

We are thinking about starting a **second Local History group** on a **Wednesday morning (second in the month)** in September.

At the next meeting, there will be a sign up sheet on the groups table, for anyone who is interested, and the **first meeting will be at 11.00am on Wednesday, September 9th at the Hayloft.**

KnitAid/Creative Crafts

Do you like Knitting? or Crochet? Would you like to learn?

KnitAid is on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10-12 noon at Rumbletums. We knit whatever's needed for local and national charities and send lots of things to Ukraine. We have coffee (sometimes cake) and a chat and we could do with a few **new members!**

Do you enjoy sewing?

Creative Crafts is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 1-2.30 pm at Rumbletums. Members mostly work on their own projects but if you want to learn there's lots of knowledge and support available in the group. **New members welcome!**

Group members contribute £1 to the rent each month.

Contact Margaret 07828 155086

Canasta

If you like a game of cards and want to learn a new game, why not try:

Canasta a two pack card game?

If your not sure, come and join us one morning, see what you think.

New members will be supported to learn the game.

We love the game so much that we meet twice a month

The Hayloft, the second and fourth Thursday at 11:00

For more information contact Nina 01773 717770

History of England

If you are interested in the Iron Age and the Romans come and join our **History of England group.**

This is the era we will be looking at next:

Exploring the first Millennium, beginning with the Iron Age and the Romans.

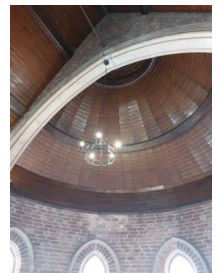
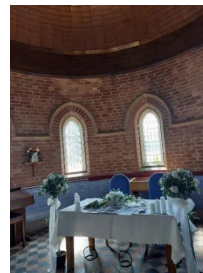
We are now discussing possible trips related to Roman Britain.

The group meets at **10:30 on the first Thursday each month at the Hayloft.**

For more information contact Karen Rea 07749 164039 or karenrea@hotmail.com

Local History

In July, we visited the Chapel on the Hill in Kimberley, which is situated at the top of the cemetery. It was built in 1883 and designed by Richard Charles Sutton, who as a young architect was given the job of constructing the scaffolding for the last public execution in Nottingham of murderer Richard Thomas Parker in 1864. Its purpose was to be a mortuary chapel and there is a glass screen which was designed to protect the mourners from the body in case it was diseased and the original blue tiles were thought to keep flies at bay.



Ownership was transferred from the Kimberley Burial Board to Kimberley Parish Council on their formation in 1896, and it was latterly used as a storage place for lawnmowers. The bell turret was dismantled around the 1950's due to its unstable condition, but there is a replacement bell, which has been re-instated and is rung for every wedding. It has now escaped its morbid past, mainly due to the enthusiasm of Councillor Trevor Rood, who formed Kimberley Town Council Community Restoration Project. He organised tradesmen, councillors, contractors, and members of the public, who gave up their free time. Trevor feels that it is an iconic piece of Kimberley and that its success as a wedding venue has justified all the hard work. It is now Grade 2 listed and has become self-financing, being a popular venue for weddings, renewal of vows, namings and funerals. The interior of the chapel is beautiful and is a fitting and popular location for weddings. On the day we visited, it was dressed ready for another wedding. There are panoramic views over Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire from the outside of the chapel.

Janet Lander

5 Mile Walks

We had a lovely walk in the Linby area on a fine day at the beginning of July which was led by Mary and Angie, two of our walk leaders.

We parked up and met near The Horse and Groom pub in Linby. The walk took us from **Linby to Newstead Abbey** where we stopped for a while for refreshments at the very nice café.

We then made our way back to Linby by taking the shadiest route possible, ending by walking through the Linby Nature Trail. On our walks we often see wildlife and enjoy the wildflowers of the changing seasons.

It was a very good turnout for the group considering the very hot weather. It was also a slightly longer walk than usual as we adjusted for the weather.



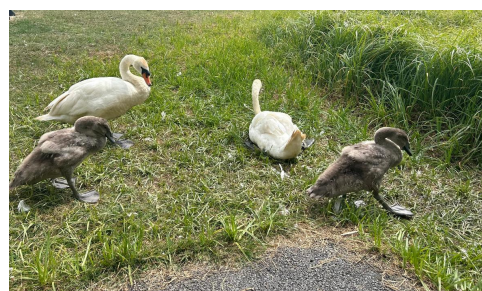
Maureen Ward

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group decided to have a change of scenery and go to Collier's Wood for their writing session. The aim was to listen to some of the pieces that had been generated whilst discussing names; family names, popular names, unusual names. Some members got inspiration from family members and events often going back hundreds of years.



Whilst at the woods our session was gatecrashed by locals!



Chris Niven

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
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

Theatre

In recent months, the theatre group have seen some very good productions at the Playhouse. One that stands out as particularly popular is [The Market Deeping Model Railway Club](#). Members' comments included "the most enjoyable play in years", "a well-deserved standing ovation", "brilliant, well observed and so funny".

Before that play, other productions we saw included [Small Island](#) and [The Beekeeper of Aleppo](#); both of these, in their own way, dealt with either the struggles concerned with fleeing persecution or seeking a better life and trying to integrate into British society. Expectations contrasted with reality, providing some difficult-to-watch scenarios as well as some very uplifting moments. Our reviews of both were generally positive

In Spring, we saw the hard-hitting play, [Punch](#), written by and about local people. Based on a true story of restorative justice, it sees the offender who has killed their son in an unprovoked attack bonding with the victim's parents as they try to make sense of the loss of their son. Both the victim's mother and the offender (now a qualified lawyer) have toured the UK speaking of their experiences and encouraging others to take part in the scheme. Our group thought the acting was fantastic and fast-paced; the storyline was emotional, difficult to watch at times, but uplifting at the end. This play proved so popular with local audiences that it went on a national tour and will be coming back to the Playhouse again in 2027, so if you missed it before, there's another chance to see it next year

The theatre group operates online only (there are no meetings). So this means using email and WhatsApp to advertise productions. Reservations and payments are then handled by Marianne, the group contact. All productions are at Nottingham Playhouse because they run a reduced-price ticket scheme, currently priced at £11. We reserve tickets and then pay later. **There are still one or two places available in the group, so if you'd like to know more, contact Marianne Sparrow on 07799210132.**

Marianne Sparrow

Jewellery Making

We made an assortment of earrings and bracelets this month at Jewellery Making group. Some were completely from scratch and others were mending or repurposing old jewellery. We often break up old items in order to give them a new lease of life. Sometimes this is from our own possessions or from charity shop purchases. We have a large selection of beads, fixings and all the tools to make all sorts of jewellery.



It is a very friendly small group, meeting at 10am on the 3rd Thursday in the month at The Hayloft over a coffee. It is lovely to see the members now helping others in the group with their new-found skills. Everyone feels rightly proud of the beautiful items they have made and enjoy wearing them or giving as gifts. **So if you fancy joining our group, you will be made very welcome.** All you need to bring is enthusiasm and money to buy a coffee, we have everything else! **Next meeting 15th October.**



Melanie Weston

Gogglebox

At our July meeting, we discussed [Free Nelson Mandela](#) and [The Good Girl's Guide to Murder](#).

Everyone thought that the Nelson Mandela documentary was very good, and provided details that we might not have been familiar with. Many of us remembered the events in South Africa and the long struggle to achieve Mandela's release and a better way of life for the black population. It was interesting to learn that it was on the death of Steven Biko that Nelson Mandela really emerged as the leader in exile of the ANC, and to see the world-wide efforts that contributed to his eventual release. It was painful to see some of the attitudes held by the ruling white class, and also to see that our government, led by Margaret Thatcher, was so resistant to the idea of imposing sanctions. We are all thankful that things have

improved, although there are still some issues, both in South Africa and also in Britain.

[A Good Girl's Guide to Murder](#) was less well received. A couple of members had really enjoyed the story and the characters, and each series is based upon a book in a popular trilogy, designed for young adults. Most people felt that it was aimed at a younger audience, and that the sleuthing was unbelievable. Opinions about the main character varied, and the storyline did not engage the interest of the majority of the group.

In **August**, we will discuss [The Crow Girl](#) (Channel 5), [Ann Droid](#) (BBC 1) and [Inside the Langham](#) (ITV). Other recommendations are: [The Dark](#) (ITV), [The Undeclared War Series 1 / 2](#) (Channel 4), and [Becoming Frida Kahlo](#) (BBC 1).

Janet Lander

Group Information

If you have any ideas for new groups or need any further information please contact the group co-coordinators **Patricia Whelan** and **Craig Mucznik**:

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 @ 11:00 am
New members and beginners welcome!
Contact Nina 01773 717 770

Church History: Meets in Rumbletums 2nd Friday @ 1:00 pm
New members welcome!
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
Contact Chris 07891 032300

Family History: meet in The Hayloft on the 4th Monday 11.00 – 12.30 pm. **NOTE: no meeting in August.**
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 @ 10.30am
New members welcome!
Contact Karen 07749 164039 or karenmrea@hotmail.com

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **NOTE: next meeting Thursday 15th October. New members welcome!**
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. **New members welcome!**
Contact Yvonne 07951 886195

Naturewatch: meet on 4th Monday @ 1pm.
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. **NOTE: no meeting in August.**
Contact Marianne 07799 210132

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 andreaasadler@gmail.com

Rediscovering Nottingham Group 2:
meets the 4th Friday of the month.
Contact Andrea Sadler on andreaasadler@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. **New members welcome!**

Theatre: meet at the theatre for the productions.
Contact Marianne on 07799210132
for further information. **New members welcome!**

Walks, 5 miles: meet on the 1st Tuesday at 10am.
Tuesday 4th August. Park in lay-by by Greasley Church.
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			13:00 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* last Wed
		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		

Key: Text highlighted in **yellow** means there is a change of information since last month's newsletter.