



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

Deadline for August 2026 newsletter – 20th July



Monthly meeting

Wednesday 1st July 2026

Speaker: Peter Rowlett

Subject: Board Games and their analysis:
from prehistory to today

The history of games is long and rich. As a universal activity, the origins are lost in the mists of time, though we have board games that are thousands of years old. Games such as chess, Ludo and Snakes and Ladders all have their ancient predecessors and Peter will trace some of these stories. This talk offers a mathematician's perspective on these developments, and explores different types of games and how we can use maths to explore gameplay.

He has been a mathematics lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University since 2015, teaching a range of mathematics and computing topics. His public engagement work has included appearances on BBC Radio and a column 'Mathematics of Life' in New Scientist. He has written puzzles for The Sunday Times, The Guardian and New Scientist. He teaches a university module on 'game theory and recreational mathematics' and has delivered games-based maths sessions for school pupils from age 8-18.

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor

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.

Dates for the Diary

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

Date	Speaker
5 th August	Elaine and Julia The Potty Plotters
2 nd September	TBA
7 th October	TBA
4 th November	Philip Drabble Travels with a Tiger - Riding the Western Front

New Committee Roles

Chairman: Chris Niven

Vice-Chairman: June Bingham

Treasurer: Mike Sheard

Business Secretary: Linda Rothwell

Group Co-ordinators: Craig Mucznik
..... Patricia Whelan

Membership Secretary: Janet O'Neill

Newsletter Editor: Melanie Weston

Speaker Finder: Margaret Naylor
..... Calvin Goreham

Volunteers & Welfare Coordinator: Janet Lander

Committee Member: Christa Swanwick

Health and Safety

Many thanks to those who so regularly help out with the refreshments in different ways. In order to keep our volunteers safe while preparing and serving hot drinks, we suggest that in future we have a limit of three volunteers in the kitchen – one to serve tea, one to serve coffee with the vacuum flasks, and one to liaise between the two. An additional volunteer can encourage donations. Tea is very popular and we use a large teapot. This can be quite heavy to pour, so please think about which role would be best for you.

Volunteers

Signing in: Sue Wheatley , Julie Matthews

Meet & Greet: Jean Hartshorn, Barbara Wass

Setting up: Rob Leam, Ernie Thornhill, Neil Hemsley

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Ann Wright,
Janice Matthews, Jackie Duke

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Janet Lander

Charity number: 1164636

Membership Secretary membership@eastwoodu3a.org Tel 07565 928 992

Executive Committee Members: ctee@eastwoodu3a.org

Website: www.eastwoodu3a.org

Our New Website!

We are pleased to announce that Eastwood & District u3a has moved to a brand-new website! You can now find us at our new online home:

<https://eastwood.u3asite.uk/>

Don't worry about finding us—searching for our website on Google or other search engines will remain exactly the same as before.

Why the change?

This upgrade brings these benefits to our u3a:

- ☑ **Simpler Navigation:** Finding your favourite groups, monthly meetings, and latest notices is now much easier.
- ☑ **Easier Maintenance:** It is simpler for us to keep the website updated moving forward.
- ☑ **Free Resources:** We now have direct access to u3a central resources and support whenever we need assistance.
- ☑ **More Independence:** We have reduced our reliance on third-party technical support.
- ☑ **Cost Savings:** This move saves us valuable funds on website upkeep.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy exploring the new look and improved features!

Need help?

If you experience any issues accessing the site or spot anything that needs correcting, please reach out to our Webmaster:

- ☑ **Contact:** [Cecil Peters](#)
- ☑ **Email:** webmaster@eastwoodu3a.org

Message from the Chair

Dear members,

First of all, I would like to say 'Thank you for having me back as your chairperson'.

I am pleased to say we have recently had our first meeting of the new committee where we decided on roles and responsibilities, more information to follow. We have a full committee with a range of skills and experience who I am confident will drive our u3a forward over the coming year. We have agreed some of the issues we face, including attracting new members, increasing the number and variety of groups we offer and planning some one-off social events and activities.

If you feel you could help with an existing group or set up a new one, please let one of the committee know. There is information on our website about our groups plus lots of other items. If you want to help in any other way we are always looking to utilise our members skills.

Finally, a thank you to all our volunteers who keep our u3a going and here is to a thriving, developing 26/27.

Best wishes
Chris

Proposed new group

Geology & the Shaping of Our Landscape

The purpose of the group is to support member-led exploration of the geological features of our local, national and Global area, combining light study with practical activities such as map reading, fossil identification, and short field visits.

This group is likely to appeal to members with interests in the natural world, local history, and outdoor learning.

Dr Peter Revill will talk about this new group at the July Monthly Meeting.

Pétanque

A meeting was held at the Foresters pub to discuss the future of the Pétanque group. Update from Jim to follow.....



Maureen Ward

From the Editor

Deadline for the **August 2026** issue is **20th July**.

Another bumper issue. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. It makes such a difference. Your effort is really appreciated by all the members.

Please email all contributions, whether articles or photos, to the address below.

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org.

Melanie Weston

5 Mile Walks

Barbara and Pauline, our walk leaders, were disappointed that today's walk was shorter than expected. We started at Jacksdale Garden Centre and went along the canal. The weather was good and there was lots to see including ducklings, coot and moorhen chicks. Walking through Jacksdale Wood alongside the railway there was lots of evidence of industry from the times of our grandfathers.

Instead of going straight into the garden centre when we got back we walked along the road a short way to the fishing ponds, a peaceful spot. Coffee and scones back at the café.

Thank you Barbara and Pauline, it may have been shorter than you would have liked but it really was a very pleasant day.



Maureen Ward

French Conversation

Fred and Clint enjoyed their morning with the French Conversation group.

They were very studious and had great fun learning their French verbs.



They listened very patiently while we discussed the impact of sport on our lives both present and in the past. Who knew we had such talented athletes in our midst.

Une matinée très divertissante!

Anne Steel

Jewellery



A lovely jewellery making session as always, creating new items as well as mending much-loved heirlooms and presents.

Coffee and chat with friends, whilst making lovely things.

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
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

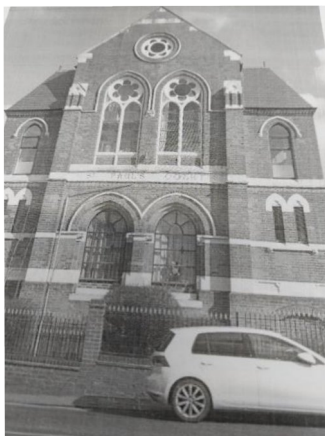
At this month's meeting, we shared ideas about local churches and chapels. We discussed how some villages had lost many of their original churches, whereas in others, new denominations are flourishing, like the New Horizons Christian Centre at Langley Mill.

Some of the churches we looked at are very old, including St. Patrick's in Nuthall, which dates from the 13th century, but was heavily restored in 1838. It is Grade II listed and was re-roofed in 1858, and again in 1884, when James Fowler carried out other restoration work, including the addition of a vestry and organ chamber. At one time the Rector was the Reverend Robert Holden, who was the last Holden to live at Nuthall Temple. The plaques in the church reflect the patronage that the church received from the local gentry.



St. Patrick's, Nuthall, Kimberley

A more modern church is Nuthall Methodist Church, founded in 1966 and celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. This started as a house meeting group, before moving on to meet at Larkfields' School, and then building its own premises. In 2002, the original church was demolished and a more modern and multi-functional Swiss chalet style building erected.



St. Paul's NMC

We learnt that in the 17th century, a significant number of Quakers were living in Eastwood, although a meeting house was eventually built nearby. Many of the local churches were non-conformist and the proliferation of chapels in Kimberley and Eastwood reflected the fact that the Methodist Church split in 1800 into two factions – Primitive and Wesleyan. Brinsley, also, had both Primitive and Wesleyan chapels, as did Ilkeston (a large one on Bath Street, now demolished). The Primitive Methodists favoured the original outdoor evangelical approach of

the early Methodists, and were often called "Ranters", whilst the Wesleyan preferred a more traditional approach. The two halves of the church were re-united in 1932, and thus many of the chapels became redundant. Some of the chapels have been demolished, and others have been re-purposed e.g. Elite Carpets in Eastwood, or turned into single / multiple dwellings e.g. Kimberley St. Paul's at the top of James Street.

An interesting place to visit is Annesley Old Church, which is situated near to the Dakota site in Annesley. It is now a scheduled Ancient Monument, and due to Lottery and local funding, has been restored so that it is safe to visit. It is ruined, and was replaced in 1874 by the current All Saints, which contains many of the ancient artefacts from the original church.



Next month, we will visit the Chapel on the Hill in Kimberley, where a volunteer will talk to us about the history of the chapel.

Janet Lander

Rediscovering Nottingham

Behind the scenes at The Theatre Royal.



Andrea Sadler

History of England

About ten years ago, when our History of England group first formed, most members mentioned vague and muddled memories from 'School History', and were keen to achieve a broad overview of the main periods of English history since the Norman Conquest. It was therefore decided to follow the monarchy as a chronological spine to guide our studies.

The format has usually been: simple presentations by members, accompanied by discussion. Topics have varied widely: from politics and personalities, to diet and medicine, and more quirky interests such as cosmetics and fashion. Where relevant, group members have sometimes contributed local and personal historical information relating to an era, and we obviously couldn't fail to look at our country's relationships with the rest of the world when we encountered such areas as wars and the formation of the Commonwealth.

When we recently (finally!) arrived at our own era, the group members decided that they now wanted to look at the first Millennium, beginning with the Iron Age culture that existed here when the Romans arrived! Obviously, given that only the invaders initially had writing, our understanding of this much earlier period will rely far more on archaeological findings and, for example, discoveries made from reading landscapes from the air etc. Fortunately, thanks to new technological advances and growth in collaborative study across different disciplines, far more reliable evidence is now available; (ironically, the further we travel forward in time, the further we can travel back!) and old assumptions are often being disproved. As we know from our TV programmes and podcasts, there is huge current interest in both the more remote past and the approaches used to study it. We share this and are feeling enthusiastic about looking at these very different and far more distant times.

Also, as the history of the first Millennium in these isles features a series of invasions and settlements by different people groups, we hope to be able to gain insights into the very important historical and social idea of migration and 'identity.' This again is very topical.

We are now discussing possible trips related to Roman Britain.

As we embark upon a very contrasting era to that of the 20th and 21st centuries, we would very much welcome new members, along with their interests and ideas.

The group meets at 10.30 on the first Thursday of each month at the Hayloft Pub. Come and join us.



Karen Rea

West Bridgford u3a

Anglo-Indian Heritage History interest group

Members of the West Bridgford u3a Anglo-Indian Heritage History interest group explore the rich history and heritage linking Britain and the Indian subcontinent. Meeting every eight weeks at the University of Nottingham, the group focuses on history through personal stories, family experiences and shared research.

Recent topics have included the contribution of Indian servicemen during the World Wars, family histories involving the Indian Army and missionary work, the role of South Asian doctors in the NHS, and the history of indentured labour in Mauritius.

The group has undertaken cultural visits to the Princess Sophia exhibition at Kensington Palace and the Jaipur Literature Festival at the British Library in June 2026.

Upcoming meetings will explore the colonial influence on India's legal system, Indo-Anglo textile and fashion influence and connections, and the history of Ayurvedic medicine.

This is a group that by its diverse nature is open to all members of the u3a in the region to come and have a taster and decide whether to join the group. Members of other u3as are welcome to join this group, without the need to become members of West Bridgford u3a.

For more information please contact Surrinder Kaur

surrinder.kaur@btinternet.com

mobile 07855322020

Photography

The photography group had an outing in early June to Newstead Abbey.

The weather was varied between sunshine and showers, this didn't deter us from going around the lake and gardens to get a good selection of photographs, followed by coffee and cake in the cafe. The peacocks arrived just as we were leaving, the male decided to show off with a full display of his plumage. A good time was had by all.



Barbara Sherwood

Art Appreciation - May

We visited St Barnabas' Cathedral in Nottingham to look at the progress of the work being done there to restore the decorative designs of the architect, **Pugin**. He is perhaps better known for his work on the Houses of Parliament. The decoration is very elaborate and every inch has been painted in rich golds, reds and blues.

The cathedral was built in the Gothic Revival style which was popular in Victorian times and for which Pugin was renowned. The original designs were painted over with layers of white paint in the '60s to brighten up and modernise the interior.

We had to admit to knowing very little about the cathedral despite having stood at the bus stop outside after visits to the theatre. It is well worth a look.

The project is to be completed by the end of this year when it is hoped the three chapels at the eastern end of the cathedral will have been restored. They will be a sight to see. We are resolved to return next year and book a guide for the full tour.

Helen Baker

Gogglebox

As usual, we had a fun and lively meeting! Firstly, we discussed **Falling**. It was noted that the writer of this series had also written **Adolescence**. This featured Keeley Hawes and Paapa Essiedu playing the main protagonists and some felt that six episodes could have been easily reduced. Some of our members were struck by the age difference between Anna and David, and felt that it was too big a gap to be believable, and other members felt that Keeley Hawes was too old for the part. The situation between David and Anna had happened very quickly, and some of Anna's behaviour seemed unrealistic, given that she had been at the convent since she was 16. This included her flirting, meeting a man in a bar and going home with him, once she was out in the outside world. It was mentioned that Keeley had played a better part in **The Durrells** tv series.

Members of our group who had had personal experiences of convent schools, remembered that perhaps the nuns they had encountered had not been as empathic as they were portrayed in the series. There was much discussion of what nuns actually give up to enter into a religious order, and the realisation of what a commitment it is, especially for those who join very young. We also discussed how celibacy was still practised in the Catholic faith and the possible pitfalls that creates. One character who was universally liked was Francis, the priest who worked with David, and we felt that their relationship was genuine, and that they were a good friend to each other.

We then discussed **Kevin McCloud Listed Britain**, which was a 5 part series, each episode lasting one hour. In this programme, Kevin McCloud visited approximately 24 buildings and sites around Britain, including Tower Bridge, Liverpool Cathedral, Chatsworth House and Coventry Cathedral, to name a few. Most of the places were listed, but others such as the Radcliffe on Soar coal fired power station were not listed. These were shown to illustrate the complexity of the criteria for Graded listing, and how we choose what to save, and what to let go. It also celebrated the achievements of local individuals and communities who had been instrumental in saving some of the buildings. All our members loved this series, although some felt that Kevin McCloud could come across a bit over the top, and appeared to be acting his part at times.

One member remarked that it was 'a gem of a programme just waiting to be made' which I think sums up the feeling of the whole group.

Next month, we will discuss **A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Series 1** (BBC iplayer) and **Free Nelson Mandela** (Channel 4).

Ruth Brown

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 @ 11:00 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 @ 10.30am
New members welcome!
Contact Karen 07749 164039 or karenmrea@hotmail.com

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 16th July.**
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.
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.
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 andreaadsadler@gmail.com

Rediscovering Nottingham Group 2:
meets the 4th Friday of the month.
Contact Andrea Sadler on andreaadsadler@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.

Theatre: meet at the theatre for the productions.
Contact Marianne on 07799210132 for further information.

Walks, 5 miles: meet on the 1st Tuesday at 10am.
Tuesday 7th July. Street parking in Linby.
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
		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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