



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to  
[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)  
Deadline for June 2026 newsletter – 18<sup>th</sup> May



### Monthly meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>AGM</b> followed by <b>Marcus Alton</b> Brian Clough
1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Peter Rowlett</b> 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 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/>

### 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 **18<sup>th</sup> May**. Please email all contributions to the address below. This month has been a bumper issue!!!

Thank you.

[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto: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*

**National Trust**

With Fred and Clint coming out of their Winter hibernation Yvonne thought it would be a good idea for them to start getting out and about again so she took them along to the April National Trust outing to Shugborough Hall. Here are a couple of pictures with various group members.



*Barbara Sherwood*

**5 mile Walks**

Sue and Barbara took us over Bennerley Viaduct. It's great to be able to walk over this historic iron bridge once more.

The weather was good and the views were great. Although the walk was not long, we were all appreciative of being out together, having some exercise in the fresh air.

Several of us took advantage of refreshments at Trinity Farm.

Thank you Sue and Barbara.



*Maureen Ward*

**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
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

**Photography**

The March meeting of the Photography group was something a bit different from the norm. Two of our members Les & Ernie set up stands and lighting to enable members to take table top photographs of objects they had brought in. This proved to be a success and was enjoyed by all the members, which will be repeated sometime in the future.

Plans are being made for the group to continue with our Summer outings to visit places of interest.



*Barbara Sherwood*

**Rediscovering Nottingham**

The Rediscovering Nottingham group had their first outings of the year at the end of March.

The groups enjoyed a guided tour of the Nottingham Council House.

The group were able to view all the rooms and admire the impressive architecture.

An interesting talk about the history of the building was complemented by being able to view historical photographs and items that had been donated to the city over the years.



*Barbara Sherwood*



### The HEAT Hub Solar Panels Explained Event

Thursday 14th May, 6:30pm-8:30pm

The Venue at Eastwood, Chewton Street  
Eastwood NG16 3HB

**FREE TO ATTEND**

Thinking about solar or upgrading your system?

Join the HEAT Hub team on their return to Broxtowe for an impartial, expert-led event learning how solar panels and batteries work, about suitability, latest advancements and more.

To reserve your free space:  
Register at [www.bit.ly/broxtowesolar](http://www.bit.ly/broxtowesolar) or  
call the team on 0115 985 3000



### Poetry

#### Celandines

Today I saw a welcome sight  
of celandines along a wintry verge.  
They shone like golden shiny coins  
through dying winter weeds up-surged.

Their burnished tiny petals glowed  
in early Springtime warming sun  
heralding to me a welcome sign  
a new year of delights has just begun.

After the frosts and snow of late December  
when sultry mists and rain depress the soul  
they are a foretaste and a faithful promise  
of a verdant Spring that will console.

And other riches nature will provide;  
primroses, bluebells; violets in the glades.  
White wood anemones and prancing daffodils  
complete the unrestrained cascade.

Joy of joys! First signs of spring uplift  
and nourish heart and soul to high degree.  
And I would live a hundred years of Springs  
to see and love this Springtime rhapsody.

*Pat Potter - April '26*

### KnitAid

#### April



17 jumpers + 17 cardigans + misc items sent to Ukraine.



Little worry bears knitted for Eastwood Family Hub.

*Margaret Naylor*



**Do you find it hard to follow speech in noisy settings or take part in conversations?**



**If you are over 18 and...**

- Experience listening difficulties
- Have access to the internet

**We invite you to be part of an online study. The study aims to improve two new listening and thinking games for people with hearing loss.**

To take part <https://tinyurl.com/PLUS-Optimal1>  
Or email: [Natalie.Lerigo-Smith1@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Natalie.Lerigo-Smith1@Nottingham.ac.uk)

## 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

**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 21<sup>st</sup> May**  
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 the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10am.  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May @ Swingate Water Tower** bluebells/Strelley.  
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 Pétanque	
		19:00 Pub Pals		
F r i d a y				10:30 Rediscovering Nottingham
		13:00 Church History		

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