

Eastwood and District U3A

August 2014, Issue 2



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



*Ann McGillivray,
Chairman of Eastwood
and District U3A,
talking to a crowded
Inaugural Meeting in
Plumptre Hall on
Wednesday July 2nd.*

Eastwood and District U3A off to a Flying Start!

Almost 100 people signed up as members of the new Eastwood and District U3A at the Inaugural Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July in Plumptre Hall, St Mary's Church, Eastwood.

Michaela Moody, the East Midlands Regional Trustee, started off the meeting by introducing the new Eastwood U3A chairman, Ann McGillivray, who in turn introduced the other members of the steering committee. This committee will run the Eastwood U3A for the first year until the AGM.

Chairman's Message

It is difficult to know, when a new venture begins, just where it will lead. I knew very little about U3A two months ago but was ready to accept that it was time to look at something new.

The Steering Committee worked hard to get things started and we were overwhelmed at the fantastic response to our inaugural meeting. It would be fair to say that if the euphoria we all felt at the end of the meeting could be bottled and marketed we would be sitting on a fortune.

Since the Steering Committee formed and worked together to start this new Eastwood and District U3A I have rediscovered skills that have been retired for a while. I have met different people. I have found that I have enjoyed being part of something bigger than my own circle of family and friends.

This, I believe, should be the philosophy for all of us as we embark on this new venture. We all have something to give, and something to learn.

Dates for the Diary:

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the Month at Plumptre Hall, St. Mary's Church, Eastwood.

Wednesday August 6th at 10 a.m. – Speaker: Graham Lambert, retired Trading Standard Officer

Wednesday September 3rd at 10 a.m.

Wednesday October 1st at 10 a.m.



Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups are the heart of the U3A. The following groups were set up at the Inaugural Meeting and have contact members appointed:

1. Spanish – Paul Turville,
07971 549 229
2. Singing for fun – Marion
Chester, 01773 811 894
3. Apple Computing – Philip
Hartley, 07764 80 10 60
4. Craft, Textiles – Pat Collins,
01773 787 806
5. Bridge – Barbara Wigley,
01773 762 383
6. Strollers – Val Kennerell,
01773 712 269
7. Walks, 5 miles – Roger
Reynolds, 01773 788 169
8. Vegetable Gardening –
Barbara Moore,
01773 770 929
9. Book Group – Eileen
Benton, 01773 770 346

Other groups are looking for contact members to coordinate them: Practical Art; Local History and Ramblers. Are you interested in doing this?



Setting up a New Interest Group

The first interest groups have been set up and contact members appointed. Most will begin to meet during August or September. Some have already met and there are reports that the Bridge group has got off to an early flying start.

There is a lot of enthusiasm and it would be fantastic to get all the groups rolling. A few of the groups' lists attracted a lot of names but have not yet found a contact member to help coordinate them and get them started. We are all learning together about how to do things in this new U3A and

perhaps you would be willing to take the plunge? All a contact member needs to do is to find a first meeting place, which could be, for example, someone's home or a room in the library. Get the group together and find out what members want and what skills they have. Divide up the tasks plan the next meeting and get going.

Jim and Lorna Stirland, the Groups Coordinators, can give you advice. Contact them on 07 977 415 072 or by email: jjms.las@talktalk.net

**Contact Janet O'Neil, Membership Secretary on 07 961 832 864
or any Steering Committee Member by email: EastwoodU3A@gmail.com**