

Eastwood and District U3A

September 2014, Issue 3



*Ann McGillivray,
Chairman of Eastwood
and District U3A,
enjoying guest
speaker, Graham
Lambert, at the
Meeting in Plumtre
Hall on Wednesday
August 2nd.*

Message from the Chairman

Your Steering Committee was again pleasantly surprised to see so many members and first-time visitors at the second monthly Eastwood & District U3A meeting in August. Thanks must go to the team of meeters and greeters who successfully directed people to the signing-in tables, and new comers to the alcove where more information was waiting, and to the refreshment team for ensuring the tea and coffee queues were kept moving. As a result of further enrolments we can now boast a membership of 128, indicating continued interest in our local U3A activities.

I am aware that many of you are wondering when your particular interest group will take off, and are looking

forward to more social activities. Please be patient.

There are lots of procedures to be put in place when a new organisation is set up and your Steering Committee is working hard behind the scenes to make sure things happen as soon as possible. In particular, Group Co-ordinators Jim and Lorna, and individual interest group convenors, have been extremely busy inspecting several potential meeting-places for groups in Eastwood and surrounding areas. They have successfully negotiated some excellent hire rates, including some free places in cafes and pubs in the area. (This, incidentally, can only be good for the businesses concerned!). Your Social Committee has also been busy, and has come up

with some interesting events for you to consider.

I remind you again that this is **your** U3A. We need you to participate and take ownership. The committee is currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- the welcoming or refreshment rotas;
- a welfare team to oversee individual member concerns;
- first aid and fire officers;
- a publicity team to help maintain a prominent profile for the Eastwood & District U3A around the district by updating display boards, taking photos, and distributing posters.

I am excited about the success this U3A has already achieved and am looking forward to more activities and interest groups happening soon.

Dates for the Diary:

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

Wednesday September 3rd at 10 a.m. – Karen Tennant, Magistrate

Wednesday October 1st at 10 a.m. – Sue Rowlett, Marie Curie

Wednesday November 5th at 10 a.m. – Air Ambulance



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
10. Poetry – Jenny Ball/ Freda Hallsworth 01773 861502
11. Local History – Eileen Benton 01773 770346
12. Photography – Rose Hobbs 01773 789346
13. Bowls – John Stranger 01773 787183

Other groups are planned for September and are looking for contact members to coordinate them: Practical Art; General Gardening; Discussion and "How do they do it". Are you interested in doing this? Contact Lorna or Jim Stirland on 07 977 415 072.



Bridge Group

We arranged to meet on Friday 11th July for the first time at my house. Eleven people came and we had a very successful first meeting with Roy and Ron (our two very patient "experts") showing the rest of us how to start playing. Mondays suited more people so we decided to meet at the Horse & Groom, Moorgreen from 2 - 4pm every Monday afternoon. Keith and Clare ably assisted by Roy have now taken on the challenge of teaching us the bidding system (Acol) which is double dutch to those of us who haven't played before - we are taking it one step at a time and gradually it will sink in we hope (or that's the plan).

We have met new people. Had some laughs together, and taxed our brains. A few have fallen by the wayside because they cannot make Mondays. We are 17 in number at the moment but please feel free to come along and see if Bridge is for you..... my contact details are Barbara Wigley 01773 762383

Social Activities

A Social Activities Sub-Committee has been set up and is already busy organising activities.

- Social meeting at the New White Bull, Giltbrook, 5th September at 2:15. Free admission, bring your own lunch and buy a drink. A chance to chat and discuss what activities you'd like.
 - Beauvale Priory visit at end of September, car sharing needed.
 - Mansfield Museum, November 6th. Black Cat bus from Morrison's 10:30.
 - Broadway Cinema (Pensioners £3 Thursdays).
 - Sunday Lunch Club – tasting different cuisines from around the world.
 - Christmas Concert and Fuddle. 17th December at Plumptre Hall, 2-4pm
 - Theatre Trip after Christmas
 - National Memorial Arboretum in spring
- Contact Eileen Benton on 01773 770346 or Jill Parnaby on email japarnaby@talktalk.net

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