



**February 2026
Newsletter**



**Founded October 2000
Registered Charity No. 1181961**

**Bingham u3a meetings are held in the Methodist Centre,
Bingham at 2pm on the third Wednesday of the month.**

18th Feb - *Inn & Out at the Top* with Neil Hanson

18th Mar - *Let's Talk about Toilets* with Robert Reed

**15th Apr - *You couldn't make it up: the secret life of a TV
reporter* with Bharat Patel**

COMMITTEE MATTERS



Meet your Committee – John Perry



John is a retired civil servant who has lived in Bingham for nearly 40 years. He is the Bingham u3a Publicity Officer and Business Secretary, as well as the Facilitator of the History Group and the Beer & Cider Group.

He is also the u3a Public Relations Adviser for the East Midlands and a member of the Third Age Trust

Exercising Your Voice group, which seeks to engage MPs more closely with the u3a.



Bonnets and Breeches **January 2026 Monthly Meeting**

In January we were entertained by Bingham's own [Bonnets and Breeches Dance Society](#) who gave us a talk about dance and entertainment in Georgian times and a demonstration of dance steps. The group specialises in dances from the 1650s up to 1900, covering the Georgian,

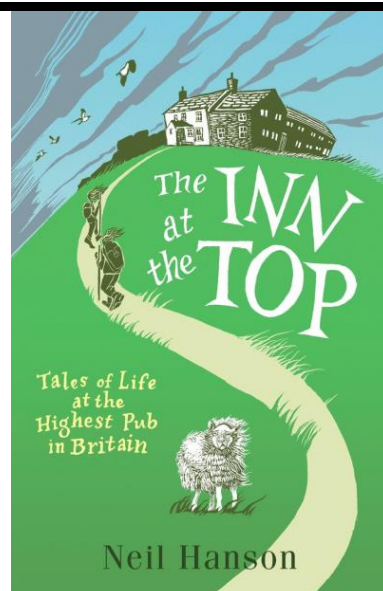
Regency and Victorian eras.

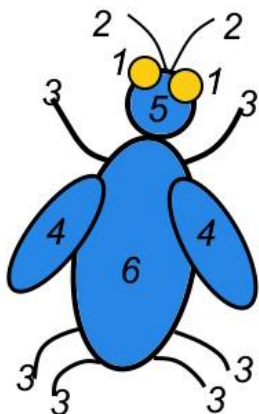
At the end, u3a members were invited to participate in the dancing, led by two fantastic dance mistresses, Lynne Spicer and Vicky Brown, both very experienced in teaching and calling the dances.

The Society organise and perform at several events throughout the year including Spring and Autumn Tea Dances and Summer Picnics. In June, they will be hosting their first ball to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Newark Town Hall.

***Inn & Out at the Top* with Neil Hanson** **February 2026 Monthly Meeting**

Neil's talk *Inn & Out at the Top* is a laugh-a-minute tour of the quirks and foibles, highs and lows of his time running Britain's highest inn back in the 1970s and 1980s, grappling with tight-fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, "lates and lock-ins", police raids, rats in the attic, close encounters with magistrates and planners, and even the shooting of a famous double-glazing commercial.





Beetle Drive

On a miserable afternoon in January we gathered for a Beetle Drive in Old Church House. Cries of "I've got a leg" and "I can't have an eye as I've got no head" were heard for a couple of hours as the dice hit the table. Teas and coffee were drunk, scores were added up and finally there was a winner - Sue Eaton. Well done Sue and thanks to Linda for organising it.

Pancake Day - Shrove Tuesday

Come and enjoy a pancake feast at Bingham Methodist Church on Tuesday 17th February from 8:30 to 4:30 - another chance to celebrate together 25 years of Bingham u3a. Contact Frances at 07796546035 or francesbailey0@gmail.com for more information.



Save the date - **Bingham u3a Garden Party** on Sunday 14 June at the Rugby Club. More details to follow.

Second Wednesday Walking Group

In January, we have a rest from walking and instead we meet over coffee to prepare a programme of walks for the coming year. In 2026 we have planned circular walks of 7-8 miles starting a short car journey away. We take as few cars as possible - if yours isn't needed you can take it home or leave it at Old Church House. Walking gear is essential and we take a picnic lunch. Usually we finish



close to where we can find refreshment. We have several four-legged members and so we are always aware of their needs when we recce a walk.

Our walk on February 11th is in Sherwood Forest and will be led by Jeff Peters. We are a friendly crowd and would love to welcome newcomers.

Contact Esme Smith on 01949 875148 or esmesm74@yahoo.co.uk



First Wednesday Walking Group Elston and the Battle of Stoke Field Trail

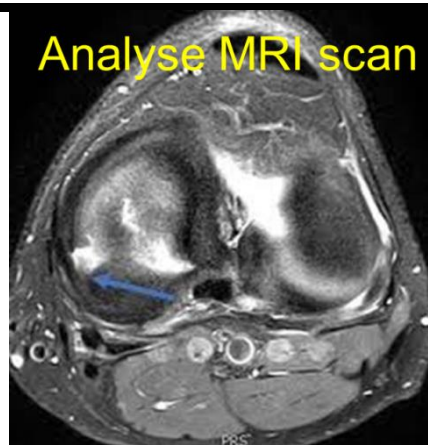
Starting at The Chequers Inn, the walk first took us to visit Elston's medieval chapel, linked to Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles Darwin. We then headed to East Stoke to join the Battle of Stoke Field Trail that explores the site of the last battle of the Wars of the Roses. After passing Stoke Hall, we visited St Oswald's Church and then followed tracks and field paths to Hazleford Weir on the Trent before climbing up the Trent Hills escarpment to Fosse Way and back to Elston for refreshments at the pub.



STEM Interest Group, January 2026 *Artificial Intelligence*

The STEM Group were presented with some examples of one user's experience of using artificial intelligence to tackle a variety of simple problems such as: image creation and manipulation; maths problem solving; proofreading; document summaries etc, using ChatGPT.

Analyse MRI scan



We also looked at the problems AI and associated data centres are

already bringing to the electricity grid and possibly internet bandwidth.

Contact: Dave Hobson, appletrees.hobson@gmail.com.



Beer and Cider Group

A well attended meeting took place last Thursday in the upstairs room at the Wheatsheaf in Bingham (some people taking advantage of 20% off meals before the meeting). 1/3rds of beer were drunk enabling people to sample a full range of beers.

The next meeting was discussed and it was decided to visit the Malt Cross in Nottingham in February. Robin Wilkin had investigated a Brewery visit to the

Castle Rock Brewery. It was decided it might be possible if a 4 o'clock visit could be organised. This could be a future event for the beer group and possibly other u3a members who are interested. Contact John Perry, jkp1951@gmail.com.

Wine Group 2

A couple of weeks into the New Year a group of us got together to "help" Brenda finish off her Festive/New Year bubbly. We were mostly focusing on Prosecco - a mix of white and rosé from various supermarkets, though finished off with a rather nice champagne. Each bottle was accompanied by

tasting notes and some fun anecdotes about Italian and our own New Year celebrations and customs. Alongside the bubbly, Brenda plied us with a selection of lovely Italian and related snacks that complemented the proseccos. A lovely relaxed evening where we all learned something new and found a new favourite fizzy tippie.



Wine Group 2 meets on the third Thursday of every month. Contact Veronica Perry on 01949 875231 or vperry1951@gmail.com.



French Group One has had two meetings in January, both of which were lively and fun. The host suggests a topic in advance of each meeting, but as we are a conversation group, the conversation can go in any direction. We do manage largely to keep to French, even if we do have a chat in English when we have a snack. We host at each other's houses, and it is always convivial. Currently we are quite a small group, and we would welcome one or two new members – a basic knowledge of French is needed but not complete fluency. Anyone interested should contact Lis Leslie on 01949831602.

History Group

In 2002 the BBC held a poll to find the greatest ever Briton: the winner with 28% of the votes was Winston Churchill. In 2024 the Royal Mint conducted another poll and once again Churchill came out top this time with 37%. He is



undoubtedly seen as a great wartime leader who inspired the nation to keep going through some very dark days. But what about the rest of his career, and through whose eyes are we viewing his 'greatness'?

Paul Aspden gave the History group an alternative version of this 'Great Britain' which raised questions about his judgement, his recklessness, his racism and his knack of rewriting history to his own advantage.

Churchill held almost all the great offices of state during his career and made many serious misjudgements. At the Admiralty during The Great War, he was responsible for the catastrophic failure of the Dardanelles campaign; as Chancellor of the Exchequer his return to the Gold Standard had disastrous effects on the economy. He sent troops to fire on British miners in Tonypandy and strikers in Liverpool, and earned the bitter hatred of miners and transport workers during the General Strike. He sent the barbaric Black and Tans to Ireland and vehemently opposed Indian independence, calling Mahatma Gandhi “a malignant, subversive fanatic”.

If we judge his career up to 1940, Churchill could be written off as a bit of a failure. Having twice changed political parties, he had enemies on both sides of the House. However, in the 1930's he did warn that the rise of Hitler was an existential threat when much of the British establishment rather admired Nazi firm government.

Churchill's opportunity came in 1940 when Chamberlain was forced to resign as Prime Minister. If Halifax had become PM, the first choice of the Tory party, our history would have been very different. The Tory grandees favoured an accommodation with Hitler. Churchill resisted this with every fibre. His destiny lay as a war leader, and he had the skills to project an image of determination and resolve which galvanised the country. As a skilled orator and with a talented cross-party team behind him, he used propaganda at home and abroad to steer Britain through its darkest days. It is this which gives him the status that he still enjoys today.

Failure, but with flashes of genius at just the right time, or genius with flaws – which do you think?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Your Bingham u3a membership renewal was due on 1st January 2026. Standard Individual Membership remains at £15 per annum. There is a £4 discount for anyone who is already a full member of

another u3a - this is known as Associate Membership and costs £11.

For those of you who wish to receive a copy of Third Age Matters magazine five times per year, there is an additional cost of £4.

Payments can be made by cash or cheque at our monthly meeting on 18th February. To avoid the queues, payment can be made online via BACS. You can also pay via PayPal on our new Beacon membership system - you do not need a PayPal account. If anyone is interested in Beacon please click this link for further information <https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/>

We will assume membership has lapsed if payment is not made within 8 weeks. However you wish to pay, we would encourage you to register on the new Beacon system as this will enable you to check the data we hold for you such as addresses and telephone numbers.

New – Book Club 2

Membership of Book Club 1 has grown so much that we have now decided to create a second one. It will meet on the last Wednesday of the month, from 3pm to 4pm, starting on 25th February. Contact Frances Bailey, 07796546035, francesbailey0@gmail.com.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the March 2026 edition of the Newsletter is February 28th. Please send any copy to Dave Hobson at appletrees.hobson@gmail.com.

GROUP CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING POINTS



Monday am

Bingham u3a Coffee Mornings are held at The Buttercross in the Market Square at 10:30 on the second Monday of the month. Contact Frances at 07796546035 or francesbailey0@gmail.com.

Ambling Group 1 meets at Church House weekly at 10:20. Contact Ann Lewis, bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com, 01949 831530.

Monday pm

Film Group meets at Butler's Coffee House on second Mondays at 2pm. Contact Lindsay Evett at lindsay.evett@outlook.com.

Table Tennis Group meets upstairs at Bingham Arena every 2nd and 4th Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30. Contact Lin Munroe at linmun.linda@gmail.com.

Wine Group 1. Contact Lynne Barnett on 01949 875151 or lynnieb.barnett@gmail.com.

Tuesday am

Knit and Natter Group meets at the Methodist Centre weekly from 10am to noon. Contact Beryl Kemp on 01949 839728, bkemp1910@gmail.com or Judy Soar on 01949 837108.

Tuesday pm

Ambling Group 2 meets in the main car park fortnightly at 1pm. Contact Jackie Hutton on 01949 838140 or Sue Eaton on 01949 839946

French Conversation Group 2 meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm. Contact Barbara Savage on 01949 838782 or savagepeterm@hotmail.co.uk.

Gentle Exercise Group meets at Old Church House weekly from 1pm to 2pm. Contact Linda Walden on 01949 836717.

Book Club 1 meets in Bingham Library on the fourth Tuesday at 2pm. Contact Linda Molineaux at bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com.

Board Games Group meets at the Bowls Club from October to April at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Jeff Peters on 07443528048 or jeff.peters369@gmail.com.

Music Appreciation Group meets at 2pm on the second Tuesday. Contact Anthony Watts or Derrick Gierth on 01949 875968.

Wednesday am

Petanque Group meets at The Grange on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm starting in May. Contact Beryl Kemp on 01949 839728 or bkemp1910@gmail.com.

Walking Group 1 meets by Church House or at the start on the first Wednesday at 10am. Contact Veronica on 01949 875231 or vperry1951@gmail.com.

Walking Group 2 meets at Church House (car share) on the second Wednesday at 9:30. Contact Esme Smith on 01949 875148 or esmesm74@yahoo.co.uk.

Wednesday pm

Scrabble Group meets from 3pm to 5pm in Room 1 at Bingham Methodist Centre on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Contact Hazel Jones, hajwghs@btopenworld.com, 01949 831908

Spanish Improvers Group meets in the Old Courthouse fortnightly from 2pm to 3pm. Contact Jean Oates on 01949 850864, 07898 895274 or us@theoates.net.

Book Club 2 meets on the last Wednesday of the month from 3pm to 4pm. Contact Frances Bailey, 07796546035, francesbailey0@gmail.com

History Group meets at the Methodist Centre on the fourth Wednesday at 2pm. Contact John Perry at jkp1951@gmail.com.

Thursday am

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Group meets at the Methodist Centre on the fourth Thursday of alternate months from 11am to midday. Contact Dave Hobson on 01949 836042 or appletrees.hobson@gmail.com.

Bridge Group meets at the Bowls Club every week from 10am to midday. Contact Dave Cobley on 07966 370385 or dfcobley@hotmail.com.

Thursday pm

Beer and Cider Group meets monthly on Thursday evenings, the time

depending on public transport and the venue. Contact John Perry on jkp1951@gmail.com or 01949 875231.

Croquet Group meets at the Butt Field Pavilion fortnightly starting on April 25th at 1:30 until September. Contacts - Jackie Hutton, 07443 595653 and Judith Wilkin, 07769 293621.

German Conversation Group meets fortnightly at 2:30. Contact John Orley at john.orley@btinternet.com.

Creative Writing Group meets on the first Thursday of every month from 11am to 1pm at the Wildflower Cafe, Coach Gap Lane, Langar. Contact Lynne Boardman at Southam2610@gmail.com.

Wine Group 2 meets on the third Thursday of every month. Contact Veronica Perry on 01949 875231 or vperry1951@gmail.com.

Creative Stitching Group meets every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm at the Bingham Arts Centre. All levels and types of embroidery and patchwork, etc. Contact Mary Ball on 01949 851110 or ballmary394@gmail.com.

Friday am

Mobility and Movement Group meets at the Methodist Centre weekly from 10am to 11am. Contact Ann Lewis on 01949 831530 or annl_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

Recorder Group meets at the Old Court House on the first and third Fridays from 10:30 to 11:45. Contact Viv Dyer on 01949 838614 or vivien.dyer@ntlworld.com.

Friday pm

French Group 1 meets fortnightly from 2pm to 3:30pm. Contact Lis Leslie on 01949 831602.

Canasta Group meets in Room 2 at the Methodist Centre at 2pm on the first and third Fridays. Contact is Martin Cox, martin.cox1@outlook.com

Garden Group meets at 2pm in each other's gardens on a monthly basis from April to October inclusive. Contact Jo McHugh, jomchugh@outlook.com.

Various days

Explorers Visits Group - contact Ann Lewis, 01949 831530

Position	Name	Contact number and email
Chair	Veronica Perry	01949 875231 bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com
Vice Chair & Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Lewis	01949 831530 bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com
Business Secretary & Publicity	John Perry	01949 875231 bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com
Minutes Secretary	Jennifer Jones	01949 839572 jenniferlesley55@gmail.com
Treasurer	Leila Kirkham	07772 303328 bingham.u3a.treasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Christine Butler	01949 851860 bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com
Programme Speakers	Linda Molineaux	07855 762775 bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com
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Website	Dave Hobson	01949 836042 appletrees.hobson@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dave Hobson	01949 836042 bingham.u3a.newsletter@gmail.com
New Member Support	Frances Bailey	07796546035 francesbailey0@gmail.com
Refreshments*	Sue Eaton	01949 839946
Equipment*	Judy Soar	01949 837108

Non Committee

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