



June 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.

17th June - *Bits & Bobs* with Bob and Del Neill
15th July - *Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again* with Philip Caine



COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Vacancy – Business Secretary

We are still looking for a Business Secretary to maintain the important link between the National u3a and our own u3a. The person taking over must be a good communicator and be well organised for this largely computer-based role.

More details can be found [here](#). If you think you are a person who could do this job or would like to know more, contact John Perry at bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com or 01949875231.

Member Recruitment

We are always looking to recruit new members to Bingham u3a. An increasing membership brings new ideas for Interest Groups and more Volunteers! The Committee has decided to follow the lead provided by other organisations and ask you to 'refer family and friends'. To reward our members for this, we intend to offer a u3a gift each month to the member who recruits the most people in that month. This campaign will run for 6 months from 1st July to 31st

December 2026 when new membership costs only £6. Any new member application form with your name against the question 'How did you hear about us?' received during this period will be logged by our Database Manager. Awards to successful members will be made monthly. In addition, the person who recruits the most new members over the 6 month period will be awarded a special prize of a voucher for a meal for two at a local restaurant! Note that this campaign includes any family members such as partners, siblings, cousins, sons and daughters. There is no age restriction - they just need the time and energy to Learn, Laugh and Live! Committee members are excluded from this scheme but we hope the rest of our membership will actively participate.

Volunteer of Month

This month's winner was Jeff Peters . Has served Bingham u3a for many years with a variety of roles. Jeff will be presented with a u3a baseball cap at next Monthly Meeting.

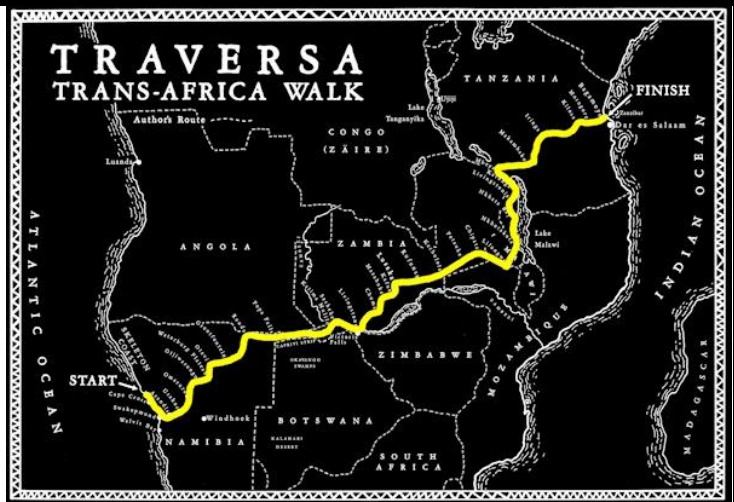
MONTHLY MEETING NEWS AND REVIEWS



20th May - A Solo Walk Across Africa with Fran Sandham May Monthly Meeting

Fran described his 3,500-mile walk from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar in East Africa. Inspired by his boyhood hero Tarzan and Victorian explorers Livingstone and Stanley, but with little or no training, he set off with just a tent and a 45kg rucksack on the challenge of a lifetime, the first time on record anyone had crossed Africa solo and entirely on foot by this route. With just a compass and the sun to guide him, he measured his progress (1cm per day) with the help of his only map, a Michelin Guide to Africa.

On the way he had a few minor skirmishes with lions, a snake and the odd incidence of road rage, heat stroke and malaria. Highlights included the Victoria Falls but, most of all, the friendship of the African people. At the end, he was excited to have finished but was sad because he did not really want the journey to end.



17th June - *Bits & Bobs* with Bob and Del Neill June Monthly Meeting

This will be a fun, interactive session that will involve all members of the audience. Bob and Del will bring a box of old items which came out of their grandfather's shop and house. They will pass them around to see if people can work out what they are or what they were used for. It makes for a really enjoyable social session and there will be a lot of reminiscing and laughter!



SOCIAL EVENT – PICNIC IN THE PARK

Picnic in the Park

Don't forget to bring your ticket with you when we meet at the Rugby Club from 2pm to 4.30pm on 14th June to share the celebration cake and a drink. Listen to live music, chat with friends and take part in a quiz.

You are welcome to bring your own food and drink or buy it from the Rugby Club or ice-cream van. Your picnic chairs can be placed in the field.



STEM Group - *The Crossrail Project* with Robin Wilkin, 28th May 2026

Robin talked about his years as Project Representative on one of the biggest and most successful civil engineering projects in Europe, the construction of the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) in London. He focused on the ten new high-capacity underground stations in central London, running in deep-level tunnels between Paddington and Abbey Wood/Whitechapel.

He went on to describe the stations, each 240m long, the 42km of new tunnels and their eight associated 7m diameter 1,000-tonne Tunnel Boring Machines. Traditional industry convention was followed to name all eight of the machines after notable women. Many engineering challenges were overcome, including the issues with the different signalling systems used to control the 24 trains per hour passing through the central section, each capable of carrying 1,500 passengers.



Croquet Group

The group meets fortnightly at 1:30 at the Butt Field Pavilion from late April or early May until September. Contact Jackie Hutton, 07443 595653 or Judith Wilkin, 07769 293621.

1st Wednesday Walking Group

Starting at the Greyhound Inn at Burton on the Wolds, Margaret and Lesley led the group on a 4½ mile walk firstly to Walton on the Wolds and then on through the grounds of Prestwold Hall before returning to Burton for lunch at the pub.



2nd Wednesday Walking Group

On a day of sunshine and horizontal showers, seven of us walked 8 miles, miraculously avoiding the rain by walking between hedges, the canopy being our umbrella, and taking lunch in the beautifully kept church at Morton with its coloured painted ceiling and



moulded cornices. We began at Bleasby Church and followed the Trent, looking marvellous in the spring sunshine, to Fiskerton. Later we passed the birthplace of Rolleston's most famous resident, the author and illustrator Kate Greenaway, and were inspired to return another time to follow her trail, marked out around the village. Easy field paths led us across many stiles of varying degrees of difficulty, back to Bleasby and a welcome cuppa and cake at the renowned café

Judith Wilkin

History Group

Sam Boote, a volunteer from Green's Windmill in Sneinton, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the mill and the famous mathematician and physicist George Green, whose family owned

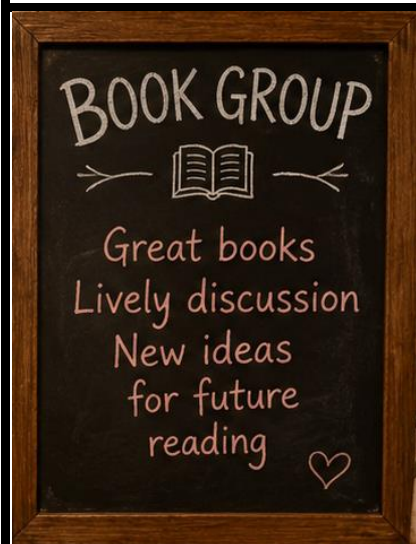


the mill. Although the mill is currently undergoing major refurbishment, it has remained an important Nottingham landmark for centuries.

Born in 1793, George Green attended Cambridge University and some of his most important mathematical research influenced current technology such as microchips, fiber optics, wave theory and the MRI scanner.

The mill is an important example of a Tower Mill, a brick-built structure which replaced less-safe wooden mills. Built in 1807, it was an important producer of flour until it fell into disuse in the 1860s. In 1975, the George Green Memorial trust was set up and the mill was restored and reopened in 1986.

It is well worth a visit and is open most of the year.



Book Club 1

This month we all chose to bring a book we had enjoyed. These included: *I Bought a Mountain* by Douglas Firbank written in the 1940s; ex-MP Alan Johnson's first fictional book *The Late Train to Gipsy Hill* about Russian spies. Other books included a modern 'take' by Anne Tyler on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* entitled *Vinegar Girl* and *Yellowface* by

Rebecca Kuang, *Hidden Lives* by Margaret Forster and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. The range of books provided a lively discussion and plenty of ideas for future reading.

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

Book Club 2

In May, we read *The Invisible Girl* by Lisa Jewell and eight members of the group met to discuss it in Bingham Library. On the whole we really enjoyed the book and would look for another by Lisa Jewell.

The story is set in Hampstead, an area that I am familiar with, and so could identify with many of the characters in the story. The Fours, a seemingly perfect wealthy family, live across the street from Owen Pick, a socially-awkward, thirty-something man who is suspended from his teaching job over unproven allegations of sexual misconduct. When a troubled teenager named Saffyre Maddox goes missing, Owen is immediately suspected. As an ex-teacher myself I have observed teenage girls and know that they can make up stories to implicate a teacher. Owen does need help to understand what is appropriate behavior, but does not see that, and at first he is unwilling to undertake retraining.

The key themes of the book are prejudice and perception as the book examines how we judge people based on their quirks and how they present themselves and the way reporting in newspapers and false assumptions can ruin lives.

Owen's awkwardness and unfortunate internet habits lead his neighbours to make snap and highly damaging judgements. No single character is completely innocent.

The book also looks at social isolation - *The Invisible Girl* relates not only to Saffyre, who watches others from the shadows, but also to Owen who is ignored by society because of his behavior, and in fact the wife of the psychiatrist who is also sidelined.

The tension built slowly, and I really want to know what had happened to Saffyre when she was young. I think if this had been dealt with earlier she would have been much more well-adjusted. It's important to communicate trauma but often difficult to be believed.

Frances Bailey, 07796546035, francesbailey0@gmail.com.



Garden Group

In connection with the National Open Garden Scheme, the group have arranged a visit to three gardens in Whatton on Friday 26th June at 2pm. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know. The cost will be £8 plus £5 for coffee and cake.

Jo McHugh, 07734751966,
Jomchugh@outlook.com

Film Group

In *The Christophers* (2025) Ian McKellen plays an irascible, aging artist (so no stretch for the great man then), famous for a series of paintings of his lover, The Christophers. Series III of these paintings is unfinished, and locked up in a room of his sprawling house. His



estranged children (James Corden and Jessica Gunning) persuade an art school friend (Michaela Cole) to take a job as his assistant in order to find and finish the paintings (she is good at forgery), so that they can sell them for a fortune when he dies. While working as his assistant, Cole and McKellen develop a friendship, bonding over consideration of what it is to be an artist and true to oneself. Steven Soderberg's less-mainstream films are always a bit different, interesting and thought-provoking (e.g., *Presence*, *Black Bag*) and this is no exception. A great two-hander by Cole and McKellen.

The 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 Monday from 3:30 to 4:30. Contact Lin Munroe at linmun.linda@gmail.com.

Bingham u3a Coffee Mornings are held at The Butter Cross in the Market Square at 10:30 on the second Monday of the month. New and old members welcome. Contact Frances at 07796546035 or francesbailey0@gmail.com.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the July 2026 edition of the Newsletter is 30th June. 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 Monday 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

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 Veronica on 01949 875231 or vperry1951@gmail.com

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 2pm to 3pm. Contact Ann Lewis on 01949 831530 or

bingham.u3a.vicechair@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 Court House 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 in late April or early May 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
Database/Data Protection	Robin Wilkin	07767 603799 bingham.u3a.database@gmail.com
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
Co-opted member	John Watson	07598 470437 jrwatson508@gmail.com
Refreshments*	Sue Eaton	01949 839946

*Non Committee

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