



**March 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 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**



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE Frances Bailey. New Member Support



Frances is a retired science teacher who moved to Bingham from Cornwall 3 years ago to be nearer family. She has been training to be a local preacher with the Methodist church so took a while to get involved with Bingham u3a. Frances has recently started an

afternoon book group that meets in the library on the last Wednesday of the month. She can also be found on the second Monday of the month hosting the coffee morning at Wetherspoons, and is looking forward to a get-together with new members at Gilt at 2pm on the 8th April

Let's Talk about Toilets with Robert Reed **March 2026 Monthly Meeting**

Why should we want to talk about toilets, you may ask? Well, in 2020, around 3.5 billion people around the world did not have a safely managed toilet and nearly half a billion had no toilet at all!

Why are there so many people without one? Why should we care? What can be done about it? What could you do?

You'll have to listen to Robert Reed's serious, yet entertaining talk!

Robert trained as a Civil Engineer and has spent more than 40 years working in emergency relief and poverty alleviation. He has mainly specialized in water supply and sanitation for low income communities and post disaster relief. Up to 2015, he spent 30 years lecturing at Loughborough University undertaking a wide range of teaching, research and consultancy activities related to his specializations. He is now retired but still undertaking short consultancies and voluntary activities related to water supply and sanitation.



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

Neil started today's talk by describing his chequered career as a plasterer's mate, an ice cream salesman, a holiday camp redcoat, art critic and a rugby league commentator. He's edited the boozer's Bible - the Good Beer Guide, and ran and later owned Tan Hill Inn, Britain's highest inn, in a wild and remote corner of the Yorkshire

Dales, the subject of his talk today.

It was based on his books, *Inn & Out at the Top* and *Pigs Might Fly* describing the highs and lows of his time there 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, and close encounters with magistrates and planners. He ended by describing the making of a famous double-glazing commercial starring Ted Moulton and a free-falling feather.



SOCIAL EVENTS



As part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations we are holding a Party in the Park on **Sunday 14th June 2026** from 2pm to 4.30pm. Preparations are underway and we aim to publish finalized arrangements in the April Newsletter. If you are interested, please keep the date free.

The party will be at Bingham Rugby Club and aimed at Bingham u3a members who can bring one guest if they wish. We will have use of the Rugby Club (particularly if the weather is not good) where the bar will be open. There will be a marquee in the field next to the Rugby Club with live music.

This event will be free to members, and guests will be charged £2

for a ticket. This event is limited to 60 people so we can ensure the event is as safe as possible given the surroundings and facilities available.

As with the previous Party in the Park in 2022, members can bring their own chairs / tables if they wish for use on the Rugby Club's patio or on the field. We will offer a free drink on arrival and share the celebration cake, but members are invited to bring any other food they wish for their consumption in addition to that available in the Rugby Club.

The field adjacent to the Rugby Club is public land and we are working through this issue with appropriate services to ensure all can enjoy the afternoon.

We request that members and their guests do not bring dogs, except assistant dogs. How to obtain tickets will be published in the April Newsletter. If you have any queries / suggestions on this proposed event, please contact Veronica Perry on 01949 875231 or binghamu3a.chairperson@gmail.com.

Invitation to new members

New members of Bingham u3a are invited for coffee, cake and a chat at Gilt in the Market Square on Wednesday 8th April at 2pm. Please let me know if you are coming.



Best wishes, Frances Bailey, New Member Support, 07796546035, francesbailey0@gmail.com.

Remember that all members are invited to Bingham u3a Coffee Mornings at The Buttercross in the Market Square at 10:30 on the second Monday of the month. Again, Frances is the contact.

Beer and Cider Group

February's meeting was held at the Malt Cross in St James's Street, Nottingham. Eleven members attended and enjoyed sampling a good selection of beers (unfortunately no draught ciders available this time). A very pleasant evening was had in this beautifully restored Victorian Music Hall which still has lots of original features. It has an interesting history and

has had many different uses. It lost its licence before the first World War due to its reputation as "a haunt for felons and whores"! Our evening was much more respectable of course!



The Malt Cross is now a registered charity, and works closely with the YMCA which is based next door.

The next meeting will be at the Poppy and Pint in Pierrepont Road, West Bridgford from 7pm on Thursday 26th March.



STEM Group Visit to Sherwood Planetarium

In March, the group visited the planetarium to view the show *One Step Beyond: A Journey to Mars*.

We experienced the thrill of launch, the challenges of life in space, the cutting-edge technology of NASA's Artemis program, and the search for life that could transform how we see our planet, our past, and our place in the cosmos - as we prepare for humanity's biggest step yet: setting foot on Mars.

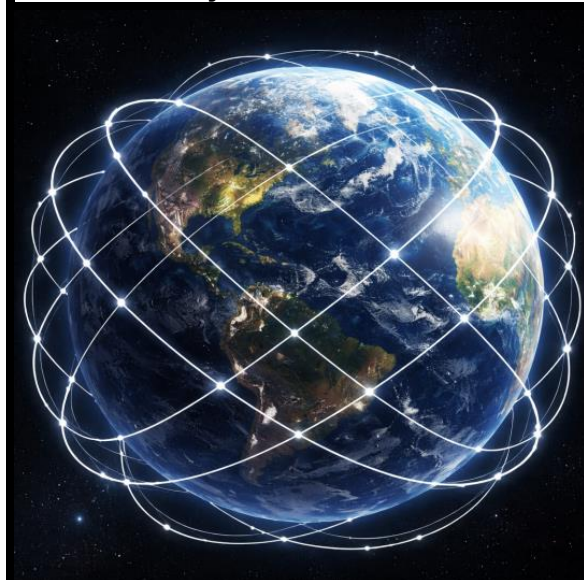
Afterwards, we visited the underground exhibition space beneath the planetarium which is set into a magnificent, Victorian brick-lined reservoir,

Monday Ambling Group

After car-sharing from Bingham and rendezvousing at Venue 12 Cafe in Bottesford, Val Lever led the group, past the almost-topping ford, towards the village edge, ambling amicably along paths and lanes. Together, we had a



moment to sit and admire the Community Garden, trying to identify the beautiful array of plants and bulbs. We continued on, passing Bottesford's imposing church, ambling on to our lunch venue, where the usual jovial chatter continued.



Book Club 1

At our February meeting we discussed *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey, the winner of the Booker Prize in 2024. It was an imaginative description of three months life on the International Space Station orbiting the earth with four astronauts and two Russian cosmonauts on board.

The book provided us with much discussion including the effects of weightlessness on the muscles and organs of the body, the cramped conditions making up for the spectacular views of earth from the spaceship including a tornado over South East Asia and the Southern Lights over the Antarctic.

The group had a mixed response to the book. However, overall we voted unanimously that it was a good read and very well researched.

History Group

Lewis & Clark and the Voyage of Discovery with Dave Hobson

The Voyage of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from 1804 to 1806, stands as one of the most ambitious exploratory undertakings in American history. Commissioned by President Thomas



Jefferson shortly after the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon in 1803, the expedition was charged with charting the vast, newly acquired territory and seeking a practical route to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson, a scholar with a deep fascination for science and geography, saw the purchase not only as a political triumph but as an unparalleled opportunity to expand knowledge of the continent's interior. He selected Lewis, his personal secretary and a seasoned army officer, to lead the mission, who in turn chose William Clark as co-commander.

The Corps of Discovery set out from St. Louis in May 1804, navigating the Missouri River and pushing into lands largely unknown to Americans of the time. Their journey was shaped by encounters with diverse indigenous nations, whose guidance, diplomacy, and generosity were essential to the expedition's survival. Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman, became one of the most iconic figures associated with the voyage, offering linguistic skills, cultural insights, and knowledge of the routes up into the Rocky Mountains.

Throughout the expedition, Lewis and Clark kept remarkably detailed journals, documenting everything from flora and fauna to geography, climate, and cultural practices. These journals remain invaluable historical records, offering vivid insight into the early

American West and the scientific spirit that animated the mission.

By the time the Corps returned in 1806, they had mapped thousands of miles, strengthened American claims to the Pacific Northwest, and ignited the nation's imagination about its continental future.

The Voyage of Discovery ultimately fulfilled Jefferson's vision: it expanded the boundaries of the young republic not only on maps but in knowledge, ambition, and national identity.

Explorers Group



Do you want to start exploring again? If so, come along to a meeting to revive the group, which has not had any expeditions for some time. You do not need to have been a member of this group in the past.

When/where: 10am, Wednesday 25th March, Room 2, Bingham Methodist Centre

Members who are prepared to help organise a visit will be particularly welcome. Bring along your ideas for outings to places of interest. Ann Lewis, Group Facilitator,

01949

831530,

bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the April 2026 edition of the Newsletter is March 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. Meetings paused, new contact TBA.

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
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
Refreshments*	Sue Eaton	01949 839946
Equipment*	Judy Soar	01949 837108

*Non Committee

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