



May 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.

20th May - *A solo walk across Africa* with Fran Sandham
17th June - *Bits & Bobs* with Bob and Del Neill



COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Vacancy – Business Secretary

Unfortunately, John Perry has to step down from his role as Business Secretary which represents an 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 at bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com or 01949875231.



Committee Vacancy - Database Manager

In October, Robin Wilkin is to step down from the role of Database Manager. This involves working with the [Beacon computing system](#) which stores Bingham u3a's membership information. It is mainly a computer-based role. Further information can be found [here](#) or by

contacting Robin at bingham.u3a.database@gmail.com.

If you are interested, you would have the opportunity to work alongside Robin until October when, with his help and support, you could take over the role full-time.

If you would like to chat about this post, Robin can be contacted on bingham.u3a.database@gmail.com or 07767 603799.



Defibrillator and CPR training

In April, nine of your Committee members received basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillator training from Julie and Nikki of the East Midlands Ambulance Service. Although we hope we'll never have to call on our training, it's useful to know what to do if faced with an emergency. The

Committee would encourage Group Facilitators to consider receiving similar training. For further details, contact the organiser John Watson on 07598 470437.

Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Bingham u3a - not only Committee Members but also Group Facilitators and anyone else who provides their time and energy to making our u3a a success. Like any charity, without them we would simply fold. So, to mark and acknowledge their input, we intend to select a volunteer every month, on a random basis, and award them a token gift to mark our appreciation. The gift will be a choice from a selection of u3a branded items such as rucksack, water bottle, picnic blanket, umbrella, or hat. The presentation will be made each month at our Monthly Meeting.

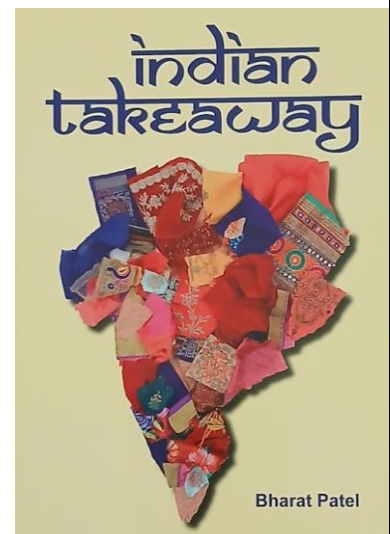


You couldn't make it up: the secret life of a TV reporter
with Bharat Patel
April Monthly Meeting

Bharat gave us an interesting and humorous talk on his career as a TV reporter covering major events which have made headlines around the world, including the Kegworth air crash, the Gujarat earthquake, the

capture of the first serial killer through DNA fingerprinting and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. He was always accompanied by his loyal cameraman Dave, and he talked about interviews he had conducted with well-known personalities.

But there's one story he has never covered and that is his own. His family left a comfortable lifestyle in both India and Africa after his parents decided that his future lay in England. The family exchanged a large house in a warm climate for a tiny, terraced house in Leicester without servants and no bathrooms, with an outside toilet and a leaking roof. Their arrival was followed by a series of bizarre and comic incidents which were often odder than anything Bharat encountered as a reporter. These are the subject of a highly entertaining book, *Indian Takeaway*, all proceeds from which go to the Hope Against Cancer charity which has already found several cures for cancers through the research it funds.

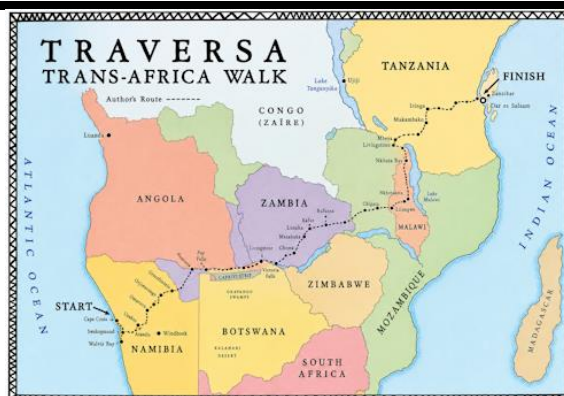


A solo walk across Africa
with Fran Sandham
May Monthly Meeting

Critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham took on the challenge of a lifetime by walking coast-to-coast across Africa, from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian

Ocean near Zanzibar in East Africa. This was the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa solo entirely on foot by this route - or at least solo apart from a disastrous donkey.

He undertook this 3,500-mile journey with no backup, no support team, no sponsors, no film crew, and no strings attached.



SOCIAL EVENT – PICNIC IN THE PARK

Picnic in the Park

Tickets are still available for the Picnic in the Park. They can be collected at the May Monthly Meeting or from any Committee Member.



INTEREST GROUP UPDATES



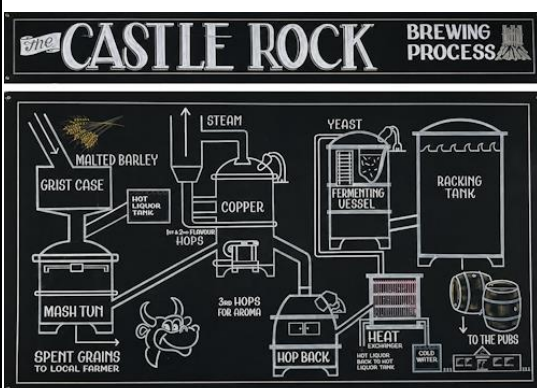
New Interest Groups

If anyone is interested in setting up a Flower Arranging Group, please contact Kay at k.whalvin@icloud.com.

John Lewis wants to launch a Foodies Group in which we all cook dishes from a particular country and get together to taste and try the food. Interested? Contact John at jl875925@gmail.com.

Beer and Cider Group visit to Castle Rock Brewery

Fourteen members of the Beer and Cider Group travelled to Nottingham on 23rd April to take a guided tour of the Castle Rock brewery next to the Vat & Fiddle pub. We have already visited several of their pubs as part of our investigations, such as The Embankment, Poppy and Pint, and our very own Horse & Plough here in Bingham, so we felt it was important that we fully understood how the beer was made. Castle Rock has 16 pubs in their chain in Nottingham and the surrounding towns so further research will be required! Their Master Brewer explained the process and what was happening in



various locations within the building. A range of beers are made there including the award winning Harvest Pale, a fine blond beer which some of us savoured in the pub after the tour. It was interesting to discover, amongst other things, that less than half of their beer is sold in tied houses as the rest is sold by many other free

houses throughout the country, as far away as Cornwall! As their real ale is effectively alive, Castle Rock are very keen that these publicans take care of their precious beer to ensure everyone can appreciate this important Nottingham export.

Beer and Cider Group

In the meantime, the other Beer and Cider Group visited the Horse and Plough in Bingham.



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



Robin will talk about the Elizabeth line (Crossrail) focusing on the ten new, high-capacity underground stations in central London, running in deep-level tunnels between Paddington and Abbey Wood/Whitechapel. These

designed-from-scratch stations include Paddington, Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel, Canary Wharf, Custom House, Woolwich and Abbey Wood.

Explorers Group

RSPCA - A visit to the RSPCA in Radcliffe has been arranged for Thursday 25th June. If enough people are interested, we can have two groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There is a maximum of 12 people for each session. Although there is no charge, the Centre welcomes donations of appropriate items or cash. You do not need to be a member of the original Explorers Group to book for this visit. If you are interested in going, contact Ann Lewis on bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com.

Flying Scotsman – If any railway enthusiasts would like a visit to see the Flying Scotsman in May in Nottingham, please contact John Perry at 01949 875231 or bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com.



Croquet Group

The group will meet at 1:30 on Thursday 7th May at Butt Field. Like at the end of last year, we will mark the pitch out ourselves, so there will be no cost to members. It also makes it easier to make a decision as to whether to play on "iffy" days. We will agree as a group on that day if the field is suitable. Anyone is welcome. You come and go at leisure, although officially we start at 1:30 and finish by 4pm. Please bring a chair. Meetings will continue fortnightly until September.

Contacts - Judith Wilkin 07769 293621 and Jackie Hutton 07443 595653.

1st Wednesday Walking Group

Anthea's walk in April took us around Sconce and Devon Park and then along Millgate, the old route of Fosse Way. After crossing the river over the Mill Lane bridge, we passed by Newark Town Lock to reach Riverside Park to stop and examine the Millennium Sundial with its dates marking various events in the town's history. We then followed the left bank of the Trent, past Kings Marina to then cross the river and return to the start but not before stopping for an excellent lunch at the unusual Castle Barge.



2nd Wednesday Walking Group

In unbroken sunshine we walked the green lanes of Temple Bruer in Lincolnshire (chosen because we thought the ground elsewhere might be too muddy!). We walked along sections of the Viking way and Ermine Street on mainly level ground. It's easy to see why you can have your private landing strip here. Unfortunately one of the green lanes had been closed, forcing us to add a mile or so. You see us recovering on the steps of the remains of a large preceptory built by the Knights Templar. We ate our picnic lunch at the completely isolated Temple Bruer Church. We had a lovely 9 miles of wide skies and good company.

We would love you to join us next time for a walk around Rolleston.

History Group

John Perry, group facilitator had designated this session to be a discussion on *Margaret Thatcher - Friend or Foe?* To that end he had prepared a list of events during MT's 10+ years of leadership about which the group were invited to comment.

As you can imagine there wasn't any shortage of comments from the group, all of whom had lived through that period although some admitted to working abroad during some of the time.

M.T. was truly a "Marmite" character and analysis and comments differed accordingly. To attempt to review 10 years of history in under an hour was a trifle ambitious and we could have



the hour discussing one single issue. In the age group of u3a members, passion over anything is somewhat reduced BUT fairly strong opinions were expressed and, in the final analysis, the question *Friend or Foe?* the finding was a slight majority of indecision with *Foe* running second and *Friend* a close third.



Book Club 2 - *The Holiday* by T M Logan

We found this book to be fast-paced psychological thriller and most of us would describe it as a page turner and great holiday read. The book centred on four families whose dream holiday in the South of France turns into a nightmare when the wife suspects that her husband is having an affair with one of her best friends. We tried to imagine ourselves on holiday in this idyllic villa but wondered where we can meet friends like this!



There is a lot of tension and a really twisty plot that we wanted to get to the end but didn't see the twist coming at all. We thought that the book was slow burning initially but once we got into it, one of the group couldn't wait for bedtime reading and did on occasion read in the afternoon.

The finale was not at all what any of us had expected. One of our

group listened to the book on audio and found that this enhanced the experience as the dialogue was spoken by actors. It should also be noted that the book has been made into a series on Channel 5, something to look out for.

We found the main character frustrating and would have wanted to challenge our husbands straight away, if we thought there was an affair going on. It was difficult to guess who the problem person was in the relationship, each having their own problems.

The book's focus on friendship, betrayal and the lengths some will go to to protect their children was attractive to us and we could identify in some way with most of the characters, and also with the South of France.

It made us think that we would like to read some more books by T M Logan and thanks to Ann for recommending him.

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



Repair Café

Some of our members help at the Repair Café which is held at the Methodist Centre at 10 am on the first Saturday of each month. Here is our Treasurer who has had her favourite

umbrella mended. Anyone can come along to have things fixed - bikes, ceramics, electronics, and much more. If you can find some time to help, then please contact John Yard at binghamrepaircafe@gmail.com.



Ambling Group 1 ...

... car-shared for with a gentle amble through Upper Saxondale with the Monday Walking Group. We visited the Community Orchard and walked along the path through the wooded area on a



beautiful sunny day.

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

New Pickleball Group – welcome to the no-volley zone, land of dinks and third-shot drops

Bingham u3a is delighted to announce the formation of our new Pickleball Group. This rapidly-growing and popular sport is played by u3a activity groups throughout the UK.

The venue and times are still being discussed with providers, but we're looking at 90-minute indoor sessions at Beginner + level. Paddles and balls will be provided, but wear appropriate clothing, non-marking trainers and eyewear if you need it. There will be a small charge per player to cover the cost of the session.



For more information, you can contact val.moreland@hotmail.co.uk or jl875925@gmail.com or visit <https://www.pickleballengland.org/> or <https://thepickleballcollective.co.uk/>.

Wine Group 2 ...

... had a very enjoyable evening at Anthea and Michael's, tasting wine from the Cotes du Rhone region with one German wine thrown in to try and confuse us. French cheeses and other tasty snacks were provided as well.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the June 2026 edition of the Newsletter is 31st May. 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

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

www.binghamu3a.org

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Printed by Wordprint Ltd, Newark NG24 4BQ