



December 2025
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 Dec - *Brian Clough, The Lost Tapes* with Marcus Alton
21st Jan - *Bonnets and Breeches Dance Society*
18th Feb - *Inn & Out at the Top* with Neil Hanson
18th Mar - *Let's Talk about Toilets* with Robert Reed



SOCIAL EVENTS



On 28 November, Bingham u3a hosted a stall at **Bingham's Christmas Fayre** in the Market Square. Members had generously donated over a hundred carefully wrapped books as our Christmas gift to local residents.

A big thank you to Ros, Ann, Robin, John, Jennifer and Joan who staffed the stall from 5 to 8 pm. They handed out leaflets promoting our u3a to passers-by, many of whom, when asked if they had heard of u3a, replied, "No, what is it?"



The following day, u3a members took part in the **Bingham u3a 25th Anniversary Quiz** at the Rugby Club. Seven teams of five or six were invited to answer questions posed by *mein host*, John Perry, ably supported by Veronica and Dave. Subjects included: *What happened in the year 2000?*; *25; Bingham; Music; u3a Groups;* and *General Knowledge*. Scores were very close, with the winners receiving valuable prizes! A collection raised almost £100 for local charities..



A few tickets are still available for the **Bingham u3a Christmas Party** which will take place at the Rugby Club on December 19th from 7pm for 7:30 until 10:30. There will be a buffet, a cash bar, a disco and a prize for the worst Christmas jumper!

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS AND REVIEWS

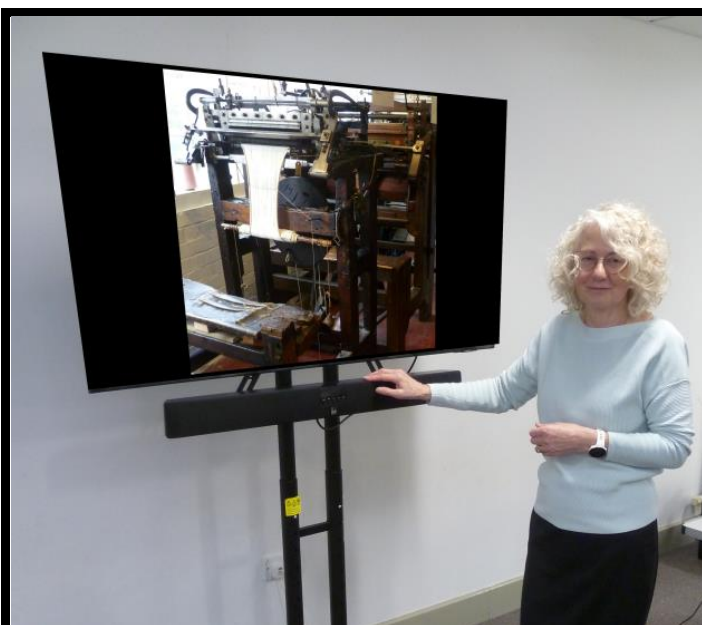


History of the Framework Knitters Museum

with Susan Russell

November Monthly Meeting

Susan began by talking about the invention of the framework knitting machine in 1589 by William Lee from Calverton. Lee failed to secure a patent in England however and so he moved to France where he died in 1614. The technology and the domestic/putting-out system it supported made framework knitting the major hosiery craft of the East Midlands for many years. By the later 18th



century, the industry was concentrated outside London: one account notes c.20,000 stocking frames in use by the 1780s, with the East Midlands supplying a very high share of them.

Susan then discussed the Parkers and the development of Ruddington as an important centre. A modern survey recorded 343 stocking frames

there in 1844. The Parkers were a local hosiery family who built the cottages and frameshops at what is now Parker's Yard in 1829, moving from framework knitters to hosiers/manufacturers later in the 19th century. Samuel Parker rented premises; his son William expanded the business, and later accounts record enlarged frameshops that could hold about 50 frames and, at peak, employed around 150 people.

Mechanisation and falling piece-rates sparked violent protest in 1811–12. In Nottinghamshire, rioters smashed many frames—contemporary counts put the number broken across the county at over 800 by the time the riots ended.

The surviving cottages, frameshops and chapel now form the Framework Knitters Museum, founded in 1971. It highlights the social and industrial history of framework knitting - an important step in the development of the textile industry and the Industrial Revolution. Today, it preserves traditional skills and offers insights into Victorian working-class life.

Brian Clough, The Lost Tapes
with Marcus Alton
December Monthly Meeting

Marcus Alton, local author and former BBC and commercial radio journalist, will talk about his latest book *Brian Clough, The Lost*



Now listen here,
young man!

Tapes. He has lots of great stories about the legendary Nottingham Forest manager, including the times he interviewed him. He will also talk about the story behind the iconic Brian Clough statue in Nottingham, as he was the driving force behind the campaign to erect it.

Marcus has been a guest speaker at several literary events - Newark Book Festival, Lowdham Book Festival and Derby Book Festival, as well as various charity Q&A events and has raised thousands of pounds for good causes, including Maggie's Cancer Centre and Notts Hospice.



INTEREST GROUP UPDATES



History Group ***Travels with a Tiger – Riding the Western Front*** **with Phil Drabble**

Inspired by historian Anthony Seldon's book *The Path of Peace* in which he recounts his solo walk along the length of the Western Front, Phil decided to do the same journey on his Triumph Tiger motorbike. Tracing this historic route, he crossed some of Europe's

most evocative and beautiful scenery from the Swiss border, riding through Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, the Somme and Flanders, finishing at the North Sea in Belgium.

Phil's talk is a homage to all of those people, on all sides, who fought and died on the Western Front, focusing in particular on the fate of two men from his native Nottingham.



First Wednesday Walking Group – Radcliffe and Shelford

Veronica led this 4½-mile walk for fifteen members, setting off from The Radcliffe on Shelford Road. The route took us along Park Road and through Rockley Memorial Gardens to the Cliff Walk overlooking the Trent. From there, muddy field paths brought us to Shelford before we continued along Stoke Ferry Lane towards the river. As both the weather and the views improved, we followed the river embankment and the Cliff Walk back to the pub, where we rounded off the outing with lunch.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Club welcomes new members. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (excluding 24 December) from 3pm to 5pm in Room 1 at Bingham Methodist Centre - refreshments provided. Contact Hazel Jones on 01949 831908 or e-mail hajwghs@btopenworld.com.



Garden Group – 2026 Itinery

Friday, February 27th, 2pm – Brenda: lovely large garden full of spring flowers and hellebores; lovely pond and shrubs. Friday, March 27th, 2pm - Ros Sparks: a beautiful cottage style garden with spring flowers. Friday 24th April 2pm. - Sue Scarrott, details to be advised.

Beer and Cider Group

In November the Beer and Cider Group met at The Buttercross and managed to secure a small room. A happy evening with some beers as cheap as 99p per pint!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Bingham u3a membership renewals are due on 1 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 meetings on 21 January or 18 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. It will also enable you to add useful information such as an emergency telephone number. Further details will be sent to all members via email or post during December.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the January 2026 edition of the Newsletter is December 26th. 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@ntlworld.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 Group 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.

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@icloud.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/ 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