



**January 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.**

**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**

EGM, 21ST JANUARY



We are going to have an extraordinary general meeting at 1:45 just before the monthly meeting to approve the Accounts which have been now signed off by Auditor.



MONTHLY MEETING NEWS AND REVIEWS

***Bonnets and Breeches* with Debra Brown January 2026 Monthly Meeting**

A talk about dance and entertainment in Georgian times; a demonstration of dance steps and a routine, with opportunity for audience participation. *Bonnets and Breeches* is a local group that meets in Old Church House to practise.





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

Marcus is a multi-media journalist and author whose long career has been closely associated with legendary football manager Brian Clough. While interviewing Clough during a live radio broadcast, Marcus was once told that his smiling face brightened a dull winter's morning - a remark reflecting their warm rapport. He went on to interview Clough several times, write five books about

him, and run the non-profit tribute website brianclough.com.

His media career began while he was still at school, writing a sports column for a local magazine, assisting on Radio Trent's Saturday Sport programme, and reporting for a newspaper as a local correspondent. He later joined the Newark Advertiser as a news and sports reporter, where he was named Midlands Sports Reporter of the Year.

Born in Nottingham, Marcus has worked for more than 35 years across BBC TV, radio, online, commercial radio and print journalism. He has presented BBC radio programmes, including his own chat show featuring interviews with celebrities, politicians and sports figures.

Cloughie's teams were noted for playing attractive football and for their good sportsmanship. Despite applying several times and being a popular choice for the job, he was never appointed England manager and has been dubbed the "greatest manager England never had". Apparently, he was too outspoken for the job.

Marcus was the driving force behind the campaign for a bronze statue of Cloughie in Nottingham city centre, forming a committee of volunteers who smashed their fund-raising target in just eighteen months. The statue was unveiled by Barbara Clough in November 2008 and has become a landmark in the city, attracting visitors from around the world.



As well as being the author of books about Cloughie, Marcus is the founder and editor of the non-profit making tribute website, brianclough.com and its associated media channels. Speaking engagements have included a number of book festivals, with his *In The Top One* event attracting a sell-out audience at Newark Book Festival. He has also appeared at *An Evening With...* at Waterstones and held signing sessions at WH Smiths. Marcus also wrote a regular column for the Nottingham Forest matchday magazine, *View from the Brian Clough Stand*.

His latest book, *Brian Clough, The Lost Tapes*, is helping to raise money for Nottinghamshire Hospice, the Royal British Legion, Diabetes UK and the NSPCC.



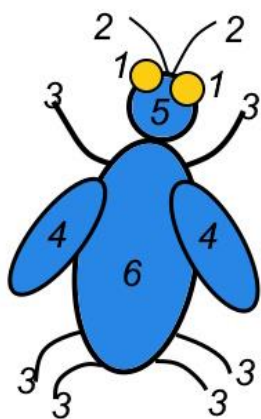
Tim O'Brian in Landscape Artist of the Year Competition

You might remember Bingham artist Tim O'Brian's presentation on the *History of RAF Newton* at the Monthly Meeting in April 2024. Well, he has been selected to take part as a Wildcard Contestant in Sky's Landscape Artist of the Year competition. Look out for Heat 5, which is on board HMS Wellington, when it airs on 11th February.

Christmas Party

In December, Bingham u3a held its Christmas Party at the Rugby Club. There was a buffet, a cash bar, a disco and a prize for the worst Christmas jumper! Here are some photos of the disco, dining, dancing and drinking. Thanks to Chris and Jennifer for organising the party.





Beetle Drive

A Beetle Drive has been provisionally booked for Church House on 22nd January at 2:00 until 3:45. For more information, contact Linda Molineaux, 07855 762775, bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com.



INTEREST GROUP UPDATES



Recorder Group

The Recorder Group made a delightful appearance in the church at the Bingham Christmas Tree festival this year. We dressed up to keep warm and entertained our audience with Christmas tunes and carols. For further information to join our group,

please contact vivien.dyer@ntlworld.com or 01949 838614.

First Wednesday Walking Group

An excellent turnout for Veronica's 4¼ mile walk starting at the Rose and Crown in Cotgrave. After a climb up to Windmill Hill to take in the view towards Nottingham, we



dropped down to the Grantham Canal in the Country Park, site of the old Cotgrave Colliery. Then, making use of (very icy) waymarked paths and tracks, we circumnavigated the Country Park before returning to the Rose and Crown for lunch.



French

French Group 1 meet in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Some knowledge of French is required as we are not a beginners' group. We meet fortnightly from 2pm to 3:30pm. Contact Lis Leslie on 01949 831602.

STEM Interest Group

The STEM Group will restart in Room 2 at the Methodist Centre on Thursday 22nd of January at 11am with a talk on *Artificial Intelligence*. The topics will include simple, practical examples such as image creation (shown here) and manipulation, problem



solving, proofreading, document summaries, travel plans etc, all of which I have tried using ChatGPT at <https://chatgpt.com/>. Have a go yourself - it's free provided you don't overload it.

We will also look at the problems AI and associated data centres are already bringing to future electricity supplies and possible internet bandwidth.

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



Monday Ambling Group

Six members braved the snow on 5th January and had a lovely walk past Archer's Lake and back to Bingham for hot drinks at The Buttercross.

The **Tuesday Gentle Exercise Group** is currently suspended but will restart on 24th February.

VALE OF BELVOIR



A reminder - we have an arrangement with the [Vale of Belvoir u3a](#) based in Bottesford - their members can attend any two of our Groups, and vice versa. Click the image to access the VBR u3a website and find information about their Interest Groups - *Art, Book, Club, Card Craft, Flower Arranging, Gardening, Music, Movement and Relaxation, Photography, Scrabble, Sewing and Knitting, Singing, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling, Vale of Belvoir Antiques Group, Walking, Whist and Board Games.*

**Notts Networks of u3as' Newsbites**

Other u3a [Newsletters](#) are available as follows:

[Notts Newsbites](#); [Regional website](#); [National website](#); [National Newsletter](#)

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 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the February 2026 edition of the Newsletter is January 30th. 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, hajwgghs@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@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

www.binghamu3a.org

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