



**May 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**

May 21st	<i>Notts Place Names with Paul Cullen</i>
June 18th	<i>Renovations of St Mary's Church, Newark with Anna Herbert</i>
July 16th	<i>Confessions of a Country Vicar with Canon Alan Haydock</i>

**MEET YOUR COMMITTEE
Christine Butler, New Member Support**



I'm Chris Butler, responsible for New Member Support, aiming to 'meet and greet' and generally welcome and encourage new members. With this in mind, our monthly Coffee Morning is held on the 2nd Monday of the month at The Buttercross from 10:30am to 12:00pm which can be a good, informal introduction to those thinking of joining - and that's how I joined over 4 years ago. French Conversation, Bridge, Book Club, Canasta, Beer & Cider and Scrabble followed and these are just the groups that I go to, but there are so many more.

www.binghamu3a.org

www.facebook.com/binghamu3a

I lived in Lincolnshire before moving back to Nottingham 6 years ago and was a member of my local u3a there. It was very new, very good and now, I'm told, very large and hopefully will continue to prosper like Bingham has for 25 years.



Bingham u3a Coffee Mornings are held at The Buttercross in the Market Square at 10:30 on the second Monday of the month. Contact Chris at kenbutler1@btinternet.com

MONTHLY MEETING REVIEWS AND NEWS



April

The Life and Work of Elvis Presley with Paul Lillie

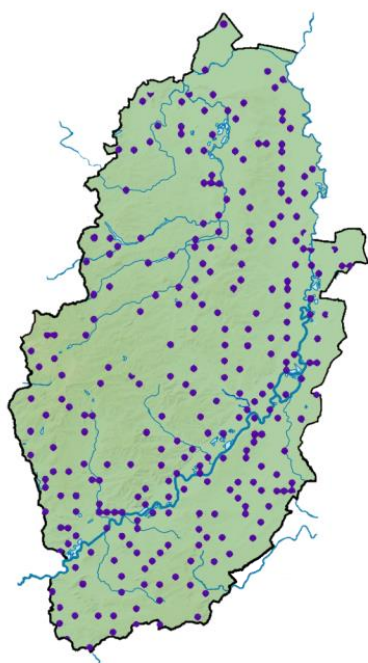
Paul gave an interesting, balanced talk about The King, explaining his early career, the influence of “Colonel” Tom Parker and how things started to go wrong for Elvis. Although I knew most of the content of the talk from my days at Youth Club, I was fascinated and taken back to my teenage years. Paul accompanied his stories [by singing some representative numbers](#) and painting a large portrait of Elvis, his family, Tom Parker and Priscilla.

I have visited Tupelo, Mississippi, and the two-room shack Elvis grew up in, also his home at Graceland, where he is buried. The commercial side of Graceland is rather tacky, but the mansion itself has been treated with respect and I found the visit very moving. Paul’s talk, the artwork and music blended well for an enthralling picture of Elvis. By the way, the artwork was for sale, so I bought it. Now I just have to decide where on earth to put it!

Linda Molineaux

May
Notts Place Names with Paul Cullen

Paul's talk will be on the origins, meanings and significance of place-names in Nottinghamshire. He will explore some of the techniques and revelations of what is a thoroughly multi-disciplinary subject. Place-names are precious indicators of past peoples, languages, landscapes, and daily life. Where other sources may fail us, names often fill the gaps!



Dr Paul Cullen has lived in Nottingham since taking up work for the English Place-Name Society in 2001. He is the editor of the Society's survey of Kent (his home county), an editor of 'The Vocabulary of English Place-Names', and co-author of 'Thorps in a Changing Landscape'. For six years he worked as a research fellow on the Family Names of the United Kingdom project, the first fruits of which were recently published as the four-volume 'Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland'. He is currently completing Volume 8 of the English Place-Name Society's survey of

Lincolnshire. When not tinkering with names, he picks up a guitar and performs as the folk-punk singer Paul Carbuncle, sometimes at Bingham Folk Club!



INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Spanish Conversation Group

Sadly, this Group, which met on Mondays, has closed for lack of members. Should there be members interested in reviving the group, please contact Laura Rennie at on 07722 499111 or at laurare8305@gmail.com).





Canasta Group

This is a warm and welcoming group with canasta experience ranging from first-timers to those with nearly 60 years experience. It is a nice, sociable but serious card game. Basically, players make *melds* (three or more

cards of the same rank) into *canastas* (a meld of seven or more cards) trying to get the highest points. Depending on numbers present which average 14-15, we play in 2's (singles), 3's (singles) and 4's (pairs). We draw cards to see who sits on which table so we are playing with different players all the time.

There are slight variations to canasta rules so I drew up the set I was brought up on, so we are all playing to the same rules. New people will be emailed a set of rules and put on a table of experienced players until they feel confident enough to play with anybody. I started this group originally for my mother. Although she had Alzheimer's, she enjoyed cards and could still play a winning hand. Unfortunately, she never made it to a u3a session, but she will be pleased to know we are continuing with her favourite card game. Since starting the group, we have gained at least four new members for the u3a itself which is good.

Tea or coffee and biscuits are included in £2 attendance fee. We may have a contest to celebrate our first year in July.

We meet in Room 2 upstairs at the Bingham Methodist Centre on the first and third Fridays of the month from 2pm to 4pm. Ask attendees to find out why it is such a relaxing, pleasant afternoon. We have space to double attendance, so please come and give it a try. For more information, contact Martin Cox on martin.cox1@outlook.com, 01949 851869 or 07745 106307.

Book Club

Members of the Book Group meet in Bingham Library on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm. We are free to choose any title we might like to read, but mainly the Library provides sufficient books for everyone from a list they hold. Last month, this produced a book that nobody liked - a horrific, true story of abuse and the eventual court case which led to imprisonment for the perpetrator. Although we acknowledge that abuse happens, the minute details were overwhelming. This month's book, a crime/drama set in Australia, promises to be more to our liking. It is full of suspense with well-drawn characters.



Members of the group can suggest titles or authors or genres we may like to read. Some people prefer to purchase their own copy or read it on other media. Discussion of the finished book often leads to reading further titles by the same author or research into something we don't know about. Also, one of our group chose a book about the formation of the SAS, which I thought would be far from my comfort zone, but I enjoyed it and found it really gripping.

We are a friendly group who would welcome new members who would join in choosing and discussing titles. Everyone's opinion is given an airing, so come and find us.

Linda Molineaux



1st Wednesday Walking Group

In April, the Group had a glorious walk between the three villages of Cropwell Butler, Cropwell Bishop and Tythby finishing at the Plough at Cropwell Butler for an excellent meal and drink. An enjoyable walk in excellent weather and a friendly pub at the end.

Why not join a new group?

In a previous Newsletter where I was asked to write the introductory paragraph, I mentioned that I was thinking of joining a new u3a Interest Group. I challenged readers to try something new if possible, then found I had to choose something I had not done before.



I'm pleased to report that I have now been to two meetings of **the** Creative Writing Group. It's not as scary as the title suggests, because everyone is welcoming and there is no pressure. Each month, we have taken a title or stimulus and gone away to write something as "homework" which we then share at the next meeting. There is no criticism but helpful suggestions can be made. At the meeting, we also draft out a piece of writing as an exercise in getting started. It's surprising what imagination can supply.

We meet at the Wildflower Farm (see contact details) and have coffee or tea to wet our whistles. It's fun! Maybe see you there.

Linda Molineaux



History Group

The Civil War and South Nottinghamshire

Despite some initial technical difficulties, Ailish Darcy and Maureen Jarvis gave us a fascinating illustrated talk on the background to and history of the English Civil Wars, with a special focus on how they affected Newark, Bingham, Wiverton and Shelford - where over 200 were killed in a local battle.

Our next presentation is by David Colyer on May 28th on *The History of the Law Courts in Nottingham*. All welcome.

Beer and Cider Group

The Beer and Cider group enjoyed an excellent evening in Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler in April. Using the 90a evening bus service, we first visited the Wheatsheaf at Cropwell Bishop, and then on to Cropwell Butler for further refreshment at The Plough.



Our next evening out is on May 22nd when we will be visiting Newark for the *Not the Newark Beer Festival* spread over a number of pubs. All welcome.



BINGHAM U3A's ANNIVERSARY



An event not to be missed! Tickets for our big event to celebrate 25 years of Bingham u3a will be on sale at the May Monthly Meeting and afterwards from any Committee Member. For £10 (accompanying non-members £15), you will enjoy an evening of music, dancing, a prize raffle and a hot buffet. Save the date - Saturday 18th October, 7pm for 7.30 at

Bingham Arena. Tickets include a glass of prosecco or juice on arrival. As there are a limited number of tickets available, early purchase is recommended.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the June 2025 edition of the Newsletter is May 29th. Please send any copy to Dave Hobson at appletrees.hobson@gmail.com.

Nottinghamshire Network of u3as

INTEREST GROUPS MATTER

Do you lead an interest group?

Would you like to lead/convene/facilitate a group?

Are you a groups co-ordinator?

**We welcome any member of the Notts Network to
this face-to-face workshop**

**Find out more and join our exciting FREE workshop on
Monday 23 June 2025 - 10 a.m. until 12.45 p.m.**

at the Newstead Community Centre

Tilford Road, Newstead Village, NG15 0BS



Programme:

- **Presentation on organising interest groups**
- **Break out groups**
 - **Music**
 - **Science & Technology**
 - **Walking**
 - **Group co-ordinators**
 - **General – will interest those who do not fit one of the groups above**

**If you would like to join us please contact Margot Gale
giving your full name, email address, your u3a and preferred
break out group: margot.nottsnetwork@outlook.com**

Learn, laugh, live

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 Chris Butler at kenbutler1@btinternet.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 Tasting Group. Contact Lynne Barnett on 01949 875151 or lynnieb.barnett@ntlworld.com

Tuesday am

Knit and Natter Group meets at Bingham Library weekly at 10am. 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 01949 875406 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 12am 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

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 at hajwgghs@btopenworld.com

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 12am. Contact Dave Hobson on 01949 836042 or appletrees.hobson@gmail.com

Bridge Group meets at the Bowls Club every week from 10am to 12am. 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 Valerie Morgan on 0115 9332353, valdave_morgan@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
Ukulele Group meets on the fourth Thursday at Bingham Methodist Centre, from 2pm to 3.45pm. Contact David Eagland on 01949831022 or davidmeagland@btinternet.com
Creative Stitching Group meets every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the Library. All levels and types of embroidery/ patchwork, etc. For details contact Mary on 01949 851110
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
Practical Gardening Group meets at 2pm. Contact Jo McHugh, jomchugh@outlook.com
Sunday
Sunday Lunch Group meets on the first Sunday at 12:30. Contact Jill Kent on 0115 9334516
Various days
Explorers Visits Group - contact Ann Lewis, 01949 831530

Position	Name	Contact number and email
Chairperson	Veronica Perry	01949 875231 bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	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	Margaret Blythe	07895 544141 bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com
Programme Speakers	Linda Molineaux	07855 762775 bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com
Database/Data Protection	Steve Aremia	07738 169330 bingham.u3a.database@gmail.com
Website	Dave Hobson	01949 836042 appletrees.hobson@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Lewis	01949 831530 bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dave Hobson	01949 836042 bingham.u3a.newsletter@gmail.com
New Member Support	Chris Butler	01949 851860 kenbutler1@btinternet.com
Co-opted member	Robin Wilkin	07767 603799 robin@wilkinassociates.com
Refreshments (non-Committee)	Sue Eaton and volunteers	01949 839946
Equipment Handler (non-Committee)	Judy Soar	01949 837108

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