



**September 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 September - *Railway Man - Engineer - Diver* with Brian
Maddison**



NOTICE OF AGM

The 25th Annual General Meeting of Bingham u3a will be held on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 2pm in Bingham Methodist Centre, Union Street, Bingham, NG13 8AD.

AGENDA

1. Welcome remarks by the Chair
2. Apologies for absence - Secretary
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 16th October 2024 - Secretary
4. Matters arising - Secretary
5. Annual Report - Chair
6. Annual accounts for the year 2024/25 - Treasurer
7. Motions from members - Secretary
8. Membership Report - Membership Secretary
9. Report from Groups - Groups Coordinator
10. Election of Officers and Committee Members
11. Any Other Business

Although most members of the Committee have expressed their willingness to serve for another term, this does not preclude any member from standing for election to a post or as assistant to a position.

However, we do need a **New Members Support** officer who can also run our coffee mornings, a **Publicity Officer** and a **Meetings Manager** who could run our monthly meetings. There is always a need for additional Committee members and it helps to plan for succession when officers step down. Anyone taking on these responsibilities does not always need to attend every Committee Meeting unless they wish to do so.

Nomination and Resolution forms are being emailed to members. Completed forms should be returned to John Perry at bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com.

Afterwards, there will be a social gathering, giving you a chance to chat with Group Facilitators and enjoy tea and cakes.

MONTHLY MEETING REVIEWS AND NEWS



Confessions of a Country Vicar **with Canon Alan Haydock, July 16th**

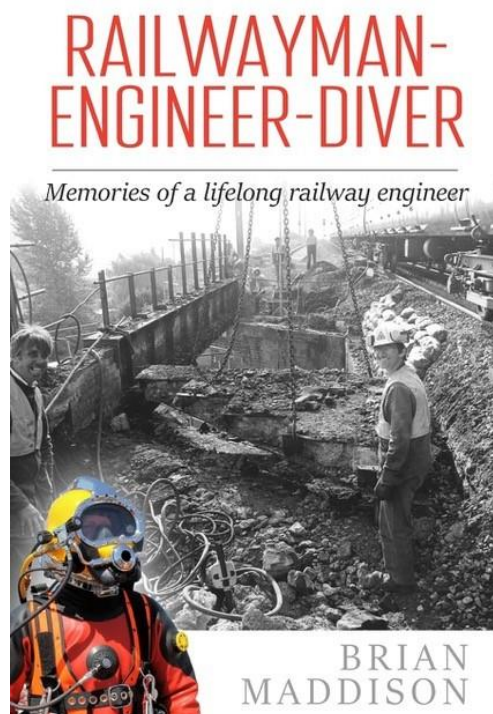
In July, members of Bingham u3a were treated to a delightfully humorous afternoon with Reverend Canon Alan Haydock, whose comedic storytelling transformed what might have been a conventional lecture into a full-blown stand-up performance. Drawing from decades of experience as a country vicar, including 26 years as Rector of East Bridgford, and his time as Canon of Southwell Canon Haydock delivered a talk packed with charm and mischievous anecdotes.



He takes his comedy very seriously and has raised over £100,000 for various charities and causes by donating the proceeds of his performances. These charities include Cancer Research, Alzheimer's Care, and the QMC Neonatal Unit.

Railway Man - Engineer – Diver
with Brian Maddison, 17th
September

Brian will talk about his book which covers his career as a railway civil engineer from the time that he joined British Rail in 1964 until he carried out his last work in 2023. There are stories told of particular jobs that included major bridge repairs and reconstructions and the building of one of the few new stations opened during the 1970's. The stories are not overly technical and include anecdotes of things that went wrong as well as the successes.



During his time with BR, Brian was recruited to its diving team that carried out underwater inspections of bridges and harbours throughout the country and there are three chapters on this.

Upon privatisation in 1995, Brian and other members of the BR diving team decided to set up their own company, Bridgeway Consulting and the later chapters deal with the success of Bridgeway and some of its work. The company remains successful today and the number of people employed has now grown to 750.

At the end of the talk Brian will have the book for sale and for signing. All proceeds will go to the Railway Children Charity.



Anniversary Celebration Event

Tickets are selling fast for our 25th anniversary celebration event on **Saturday 18 October**. We have limited capacity so please purchase your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £10 for members and £15 for accompanied non-members. The price includes a choice of main meal and dessert plus entertainment, music, raffle and a free

drink. A cash bar will be available including beer brewed in Bingham. You can also request the DJ to play your favourite tracks. Please send suggestions to bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com. Tickets are available from Margaret Blythe at bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com or on 07895 544141.

Bingham u3a's Big Day – 10am to 2pm, Saturday 27th September

This event in the main hall of Bingham Methodist Centre aims to showcase the sort of activities going on in the various Interest Groups of our u3a. The hall will be filled with stands from all our groups, advertising who they are, what they do and when they meet. This will remind not only members of the u3a about the groups they could join but also the wider public that we provide are more than just one talk a month. For example, the Canasta and Scrabble groups will have members playing for the duration and talking to prospective new attendees; the 1st Wednesday Walking Group, Gardening Group and the STEM Group will be attending.

History of Bingham u3a

18th October 2025 will be the 25th Anniversary of Bingham u3a.



Do you know how the u3a originated in France? Do you know who brought this concept to the UK? Where was the first Bingham u3a meeting held?

Answers to these questions, and lots more interesting facts and information will be in the booklet, *The History of Bingham u3a*, produced by

the Creative Writing Group to mark this occasion. We hope you all enjoy it.



DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Quiz Evening - 29th November and **Christmas Social Event** - 19th December, both at Bingham Rugby Club. More details next month.

Short course

On 7th and 21st November from 10am to midday, Mary Ball is proposing to run a short course on **Phone Pouch Applique** at the Bingham Art Centre, the aim being to produce a phone pouch. For more details, please contact Mary at ballmary394@gmail.com.

Wine Group 2

The first meeting of Wine Group 2 will take place on Thursday 18th September. Contact the Chair or Vice Chair for more details.

u3a Week (see [u3a friends newsletter](#) below)

From 20th to 27th September, Bingham u3a will have a display in Bingham Library. If anyone who could man the table for half an hour, please contact the Chair or Vice Chair.

SOCIAL EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTY



Burton Joyce and District u3a is holding a social evening in Burton Joyce Village Hall on Friday 3rd October at 7:30pm to which u3a members are invited. A Nottingham-based band, Kellys Heroes, have a repertoire that encompasses fast and furious Celtic tunes and songs, gentle ballads, quality contemporary numbers as well as some original material. More information can be found on the *News Bulletin Links* section of the website at <https://bju3a.co.uk/newsline/>.

OTHER NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE



National News

The [u3a friends newsletter](#) reports news from around the UK. Also the following might be of interest:

u3a week is taking place between **20-28 September** and we are celebrating with a programme of online events focussing on positive ageing. These events are all exclusively open to u3a members and their friends, to help us spread the word about the benefits of being in the u3a movement. Here are the events taking place throughout the week:

- *Age Without Limits: Celebrate Ageing with the Centre for Ageing Better*
- *Eating Well for Health and Vitality in Later Life*
- *What do official statistics reveal about positive ageing? with the Office of National Statistics*
- *My gardening life: decades on the plot, page, screen and airwaves with Barbara Segall*
- *Still Got It: Positive Ageing photography with photographer Mike*

Longhurst

Book your place on [the u3a week page](#).

Nottinghamshire Network of u3as

The August edition of the newsletter with information from u3as around the county can be found [here](#)..



INTEREST GROUP UPDATES



First Wednesday Walking Group

In July, Leslie led eight Bingham u3a members on a 4½-mile walk from Denton to the Grantham Canal and back past Denton Reservoir before lunch at the Welby Arms.

In September, Dave's 5½ mile walk from Orston took us across fields and over the River Smite to Thoroton and then on to Hawksworth Church for a drinks stop. Then, after struggling along more unreinstated footpaths, we reached Longhedge Lane to recross the Smite at Oscar Bridge, returning to Orston and the Durham Ox for an excellent lunch.





Recorder Group

Do you have a recorder? Have you ever played a recorder? If so, maybe you would like to join our small, friendly recorder group.

We meet at the Old Court House on the first and third Fridays from 10:30 to 11:45. We are lucky enough to have descant, treble, tenor and

bass players so we play mostly 4 part music. We play a range of styles of music: baroque, classical, popular and Christmas. The music is mostly easy to moderate but with the occasional challenge.

Being able to read music is necessary.

You are welcome to come along and listen or have a go if you wish. Contact Viv Dyer on 01949 838614 or vivien.dyer@ntlworld.com.



Beer and Cider Group

In August, the Beer and Cider Group visited the Organ Grinder and other establishments in Newark. We ended our evening at Newark's CAMRA Pub of the Year, Just Beer.

Our next meeting location is West Bridgford at end of October.

Contact John Perry at Jkp1951@gmail.com for more details.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

u3a
learn, laugh, live

www.binghamu3a.org

www.facebook.com/binghamu3a

The deadline for the October 2025 edition of the Newsletter is September 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 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 the Bowls Club 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 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 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 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
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 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
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
Chair	Veronica Perry	01949 875231 bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com
Vice Chair	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*	Sue Eaton	01949 839946
Equipment*	Judy Soar	01949 837108

* Non Committee

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