



**December
2023
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 December 2023, Radcliffe Male Voice Choir
17 January 2024 , *Do you know who I am?* with Peter Slater

BINGHAM u3a MATTERS



Committee membership

Although all the Committee posts were filled at the AGM in October, we still need people to shadow members, in particular the Treasurer. Please contact the Chair if you would like to help.

Membership fee

The fee is unchanged at £15, payable on 1st January 2024 to *u3a bingham* .

PROGRAMME NEWS



Radcliffe Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 40th anniversary by bringing us a free concert on the 20th of December. This will be a seasonal offering of songs, with an opportunity to join in. You might like to consider joining them in future! There will be a collection afterwards, donations going to a Cancer Relief charity. Seasonal refreshments will also be provided, so make a note of the date now.

NATIONAL u3a FESTIVAL



The first National u3a Festival will be taking place at the University of York from 18th - 20th July 2024 with Workshops, Musical Entertainment, Sports and Talks.

Tickets will range from £5 for a half-day on Saturday, £10 for a full day on Friday, to £25 for a half-day on Thursday, including a buffet supper. Attendance at the whole festival will only cost £35. Accommodation on campus is £61.80pp for bed and breakfast (single rooms only). Alternative accommodation suggestions will be available in due course.

This is bound to be a very popular event so we shall keep you informed about when tickets go on sale.

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW



We are considering having a Social Evening next year, based around antiques. It might take the form of an Antiques Roadshow with valuations of objects brought in, a quiz about mystery objects and their uses, or a talk by an expert and TV personality. Or all three options.

There would be an admission charge, with an opportunity to show your own antique item and admire others. We would need to assess the level of interest before committing to a booking so please contact the Programme Speaker Seeker:

bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com or speak to Veronica or Ann or Linda.



BINGHAM u3a EQUIPMENT

Below is a list of equipment owned by Bingham u3a which may be borrowed by Group Leaders. Some items are already on long or short term loan to leaders. If leaders wish to borrow any items please get in touch with Judy Soar at judysoar1@hotmail.co.uk or 01949 837108.

Panasonic radio-cassette player; Asus laptop; Benq projector; Lenovo laptop; 10m extension leads (2); laser pointer; tabletop noticeboard; French books for beginners (9); u3a wall hanging and banners; croquet set; laminator and pouches; tarpaulin sheet; u3a bunting/yarn bombing; overhead projector; projector stand; large u3a flags (2); table tennis bats and balls; flip chart and stand; assorted small office supplies and tablecloths; wireless microphone; DVD player and HDMI lead.



Practical Gardening Group – an interview with Tina Patrick

Question: Are you a keen gardener and do you have a large garden? Do members need a garden to join?

I have a medium-sized garden which was re-landscaped about 3 years ago, but group members have gardens of all shapes, sizes and

maturities. I have been gardening all my life, having grown up with my grandmother who spent all her spare time in her greenhouse growing fruit and veg. In fact, my very first job when I was about 13 was at the little nursery up the road where I helped prick out the veg seedlings and pot up growing plants. I love my garden, and my favourite time of year is watching plants coming up in the Spring!



Q: What was the inspiration for starting a gardening club?

The emphasis for our group is on informality and sociability. We decided to meet up and just spend time together, sharing our interest in gardening, and having a good old nosey in other people's gardens to hopefully get some inspiration for our own. We also wanted a platform to swap tips and experiences, as well as sharing seeds, seedlings, excess plants, produce, and cuttings. Our group is called Practical Gardening to distinguish it from other groups in Bingham, which are more formal and have a

structured programme of talks and visits.

Q: How many members does the club have? Can anyone join?

We started very small with just 7 members; 2023 has been our second year as a Group, and there are currently 15 members living in Bingham and surrounding villages. Anyone with an interest in gardening of any kind is most welcome.

Q: Does anyone in the group have special expertise?

No one has particular expertise, but some of us concentrate on growing fruit or veg, whilst others have more experience with flowers, houseplants, containers, ponds etc.

Q: How do you operate? What about the Winter period when gardens are dormant?

The group meets every 2–4 weeks between early Spring and Autumn. Group members take it in turns to volunteer to host a meeting – often when they know they have something in their garden that will be of interest to others. The meetings take place on a weekday afternoon, and we vary the days as members all belong to other u3a groups as well. The host only needs to provide a cup of tea, but our members have also offered somewhere to sit and shelter if there's a shower, and some even treat us to cakes! Very occasionally a meeting has been called off due to bad weather, but the informality of the group means that we just rearrange another meeting between ourselves. Members often arrive bearing excess plants to give away, or trowels, secateurs and plastic bags to take cuttings.

Q: How can u3a members find out more?

Please feel free to contact Tina Patrick (0780 1150567) to find out more, or speak to any of the members of our friendly group! Our next meeting will be in February 2024.

Explorers Group – Nottingham Castle



After meeting up outside the Castle, we duly paid £12 for admission and an annual pass and entered via the Robin Hood Experience which was full of school children and found ourselves in the Rebellion Gallery. It seems that Nottingham folk have always been the rebellious sort, from Norman days, through the Civil War, the Luddites, miners' strikes

and onwards.

The Art gallery displayed a huge variety of paintings, some of which had accompanying artefacts which referenced the picture or a detail from it. This was helpful in explaining what the artist was trying to convey.



Admiring lace dresses

Some of the collection from the old Lace Museum were displayed in glass cases and told the story of Nottingham's premier industry. There was a collection of salt-glaze stoneware, locally manufactured. This included some charming bears, mugs and jugs. Alabaster carvings were on display, another local industry.



View from Castle Balcony

The clear-weather view from the balcony was a welcome sight, together with a pleasant snack lunch. Thanks to Ann for organising our trip. Whose turn is next?

Book Group – talk by John Holmes

Bingham Library hosted a talk by John Holmes MBE on Monday 20th November. Library staff thought this might appeal to the Book Group as John was publicising his new book, so a few members went along. He spoke about his career in broadcasting which encompassed both radio programmes and television. John has also produced, introduced and been a sports commentator, although he has now retired.

John was eloquent in telling anecdotes of people he had met, including Spike Milligan, one of his favourite influencers. Quips from Brian Clough, Joan Collins, Nigel Hawthorne and Margaret Thatcher among others sprinkled his talk. Many of the audience appeared to know John and there were plenty of questions for him to answer. An entertaining talk and something perhaps to watch out for in future similar events at the Library.

Linda Molineaux

Walking Group 4 was lucky with the weather again this month and fourteen members enjoyed a walk from the Manvers Arms in Cotgrave – muddy in places but nobody fell over!

Judith was then able to take us along an alternative attractive path by the lake then up over the old coal tip and through the trees – which some members of the group thought deserved a hug.



Creative Sewing Group

Ten members attended the first meeting of the Group with various projects in hand. Everyone was warmly welcomed and ideas shared as well as help given to one beginner. The next meeting is on the 7th of December at 2pm in Room 2 at the Methodist Centre. All are welcome.

History Group – The Stolen Generation

In November, we had a very interesting and moving presentation by Lynn Boardman who had lived for many years in Australia living and working with aboriginal groups. She explained how, although the aboriginals had migrated to Northern Australia from Asia over 70,000 years ago, they did not have full citizenship until 1965 and were only given federal rights in 1967.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Lynn described very eloquently about how the Australian Government forcibly separated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families after WW2 as it was felt they would have a 'better life' if assimilated into the 'white' population. This pivotal moment in the controversy has come to be known as the Stolen Generations.

An inquiry was established by the federal Attorney-General, Michael Lavarch, on 11 May 1995 in response to efforts made by key Indigenous agencies and communities concerned that the general public's ignorance of the history of forcible removal was hindering the recognition of the needs of its victims and their families and the provision of services. The report was tabled in 1997 and we saw some of a very moving video sharing Aboriginal stories from children who have been taken from their families



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

and either educated in special schools or adopted by white families. The impact was immense as many of the children never saw their families again and were sent to work in extremely poor

conditions.

What was most difficult to understand was that the institutionalised discrimination which was introduced has never been acknowledged by the UK nor Australia though Kevin Rudd did make an apology in 2008.

National Sorry Day is celebrated on 26th May each year. A recent referendum in 2023 which wanted to bring first-nation peoples into the constitution was rejected 60% to 40% which shows how little has changed.

We had a short but useful discussion as many of the history group had useful and relevant stories to share.

The next meeting is at the Methodist Centre on Wednesday January 24th at 2pm for approximately one hour.

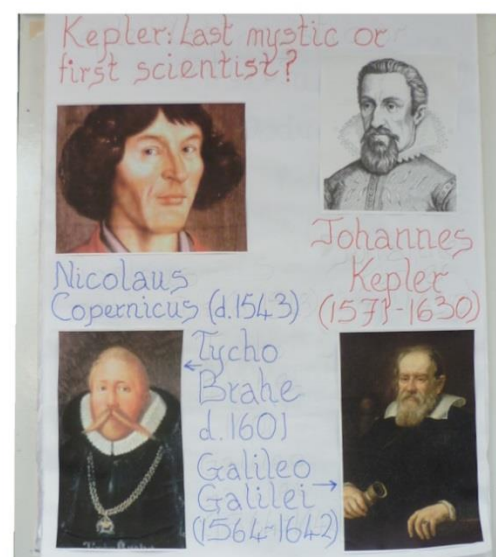
STEM Group

Johannes Kepler – an influential but under-appreciated figure in the history of science

John Hudson's presentation was based on a book by the prolific science writer John Gribbin, *Science: A History 1543–2001*. He

concentrated though on the contributions to astronomy of Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 – 1543) who proposed a heliocentric system, that the planets orbit around the Sun; Tycho Brahe (1546 – 1601) best known for his astronomical

instruments and observations; and Galileo Galilei (1564 to 1642) who championed the Copernican planetary system and



significantly enhanced the accuracy of the telescope.

Today's talk however focused on the work of Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630) who John believes is an under-appreciated but pivotal figure in the history of science. Kepler was a pupil of Brahe and used his observations to develop his *Laws of Planetary Motion*: the orbit of a planet is an ellipse with the Sun at one of the two foci; a line segment joining a planet and the Sun sweeps out equal areas during equal intervals of time; the square of a planet's orbital period is proportional to the cube of the length of the semi-major axis of its elliptical orbit.

He also thought that there might be a geometric underpinning to the universe and worked out a scheme in which the five Platonic solids, octahedron, icosahedron, dodecahedron, tetrahedron and cube, could be encased within spheres and then nested within each other.

These observations had a great influence on the work of Isaac Newton (1642 – 1726) who had the mathematical skills to develop his laws of motion, in particular the universal laws of gravitation so familiar to us today.



Two of Kepler's five Platonic solids



NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to express a warm welcome to the following new or returning members: Leila Kirkham, Kenneth Fletcher, Ann Fletcher and Hazel Jones. We hope they will enjoy being part of Bingham u3a and participating in the activity groups of their choice.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the January 2024 edition is 23rd December. Please send any copy to Dave Hobson on appletrees.hobson@gmail.com.



GROUP CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING POINTS

Monday am

Ambling Group 1 meets at Church House weekly at 10:30. Contact Miriam Bingham on 01949 836390 or miriam.bingham@yahoo.com.

Coffee Social Group meets at the Buttercross Pub on the second Mondays at 10:30. Contact any Committee member or 01949 839946

www.binghamu3a.org

www.facebook.com/binghamu3a

Monday pm

Cinema Group meets at Butler's Coffee House on second Mondays at 2pm. Contact Lindsay Evett on 01949 851115 .

Spanish Conversation Group meets at Laura's house on alternate weeks at 2pm. Contact Laura Rennie on 07722 499111

Board Games Group meets at the Bowls Club from October to April on the second Monday at 7pm. Contact Jeff Peters on 01949 875406 or jeff.peters369@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 .

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 alternate weeks from 10am to 12am. Contact Beryl Kemp on 01949 839728 or bkemp1910@gmail.com .

Walking Group 1 meets by Church House on the first Wednesday at 10am. Contact Judith Williams on 07523 645105 or judith10r@icloud.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 .

Walking Group 4 meets at Church House (car share) on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30. Contact John and Glyn Greenwood on 01159 899798 or johnandglyn@btinternet.com .

Wednesday pm

Spanish 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 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 on alternate weeks from 10am to 12am. Contact Dave Cobley on 07966 370385 or dfcobley@hotmail.com .

Thursday pm

Croquet Group meets at the Butt Field Pavilion fortnightly from

May to September at 1pm. Contacts – Jackie Hutton, 07443 595653 and Judith Wilkin , 07769 293621 .
German Conversation Group meets fortnightly at 2pm. Contact Valerie Morgan on 0115 9332353, valdave_morgan@btinternet.com .
Creative Writing Group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 2pm at the Wildflower Cafe, Coach Gap Lane, Langer. The next meetings are on the 7 th of December and 1 st February. Contact Lynne Boardman, Southam2610@gmail.com .
Sewing Group meets in Room 2 of the Methodist Centre. Contact Mary Ball, _maryannball@tiscali.co.uk .
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 2:30pm to 4pm. Contact Lis Leslie on 01949 831602 .
Practical Gardening Group meets at 2pm. Contact Tina Patrick on 07801 150567.
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	Judith Axtell	01949 839097 bingham.u3a.treasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Margaret Blythe	01949 831537 bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com
Programme Speakers	Linda Molineaux	07855 0762775 bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com
Database/Data Protection	Steve Aremia	01949 831537 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
Refreshments (non-Committee)	Sue Eaton and volunteers	01949 839946
Equipment Handler (non-Committee)	Judy Soar	01949 837108

Printed by Wordprint Ltd, Newark NG24 4BQ