

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

Meetings are held in the Methodist Centre,
Bingham at 2pm

Third Wednesday of the month
NEXT MEETING : 19th July 2023

Bingham u3a



Founded October 2000

Registered Charity No. 1181961

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

UPCOMING MEETING SPEAKERS

19th July 2023

A Visit from *The Plague Doctor*

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY YOUR CHAIRMAN

After a lot of thought, I have decided to stand down as Chair of Bingham u3a and to hand over to Veronica Perry as Acting Chair until our AGM in October. At the same time, I am also standing down as Bingham's Publicity Officer and Network Facilitator.

The fact is that there are simply not enough hours in the day nor days in the year for me to fulfil my roles in Bingham u3a at the same time as being East Midlands Regional Trustee and a Director of the Third Age Trust.

Also, it is very difficult indeed to balance the interests of the Third Age Trust, the Pilot Council and the East Midlands Region and its constituent Networks with those of Bingham u3a, and there is an ever present risk that conflicts of interest will arise.

I have very much enjoyed my time as Bingham's Vice-Chair and then Chair, and tackling head-on the many challenges those roles presented, and I shall of course still be attending as many monthly meetings and group activities as I can and also enjoying the company of my many friends in Bingham u3a.

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!

John Lewis



A National and International organisation that provides companionship and enables members to share many educational, creative and leisure activities.



It all started on April Fools' Day, after I promised that in my first 100 days, among other things, I'd visit all six of the active networks in the region [four so far and two to come in July], assemble a Support Team [we've met once on Zoom], revive the Regional Newsletter [this is issue # 1] and locate and motivate the Regional Publicity Adviser [sadly she decided to resign last month so the position is now vacant] and attend the Pilot Council and Board meetings in May and June.

In my meetings with networks, we've had some very lively, outspoken and productive discussions around:

- The Pilot Council - what it is, who's on it, what it does, who does it report to and why we need it
- The existing governance structure of the Third Age Trust and the proposed changes to that structure including the creation of the proposed u3a Council
- The effective operation of u3a's, networks and regions
- Solutions to the problems with communications between the Third Age Trust, regions, networks and member u3as
- Sharing and encouraging initiatives contributed by member u3a's to the wider u3a movement

The next three months are going to be a very busy time for me in the run up to the 2023 National AGM in October.

Two resolutions have been proposed by members, one about the status and contribution made by smaller networks and clusters, and the other calling for an increase in national membership to 500,000 by the end of 2028. Providing better support and representation to smaller u3as and attracting new members, particularly from a younger age group, are of course already identified u3a objectives.

It's essential that members discuss these proposals and make their voices heard by voting on them at the AGM.

I'm extremely grateful to the East Midlands members who have volunteered to support me in my efforts to make some positive progress in achieving these aims and improving communications, transparency and accountability in the governance of the u3a movement. I'd like to encourage more members to do the same, so that, together, we can really make a difference.

John Lewis

Trustee for the East Midlands

E-mail: john.lewis@u3a.org.uk

Tel: 07428 418 777

TRAVEL GROUP
Only U3A Members can go on U3A Holidays or Excursions



COACH DAY EXCURSIONS

Tuesday 25th July
Coach tour of Cromer and Sheringham

Sadly we have had to cancel this excursion as there was not a sufficient number of bookings to make the cost viable. Money paid will be returned at the Travel Desk at our next monthly meeting or if possible transfer part of your payment to our Derbyshire Excursion. If you are not at the meeting we will contact you.

Tuesday 26th September
Coach Tour of Derbyshire (area around Bakewell)

We will stop at Chesterfield where you will have free time to look around the Cathedral and wonder at its Crooked Spire or be able to enjoy some retail therapy. We will proceed to Bakewell where we can enjoy exploring the town and choose which café or pub is suitable for lunch. You may, of course pack a picnic if you wish. After lunch we will drive through the countryside before returning to Bingham.

We need you to book & pay by **15th August** so we can confirm the booking

PRICE £23.00 YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE AT THE MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY OR PHONE Pat 01949 875471 or Beryl on 07792929334

Wednesday 25th October
Flamborough & Bridlington
(WITH A 2 COURSE LUNCH)

Cost: £47.00

There will be a choice of menu available at our September Meeting

Burton Joyce u3a Outings

Burton Joyce u3a are inviting members of other local u3as to join them on two forthcoming outings, to the Palace of Westminster and the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. This would be a nice opportunity to meet members from other u3as.

Palace of Westminster, Monday 31st July

This will include a cruise on the River Thames to the Tower of London and London Bridge followed by a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, including Westminster Hall, the Central Lobby, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Long Gallery and the King's Robing Room plus other parts not open to casual visitors. The coach will leave from Burton Joyce at 8.15am, departing for the return at 5pm. The cost is £40 including coach and cruise.

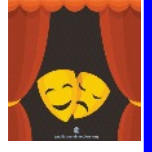
Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Monday 13th November

This is the biggest Christmas show of its kind in Europe, with a cast of 120 performers creating an extravaganza of music, humour and dancing to celebrate the season. The coach will depart from Burton Joyce at 8.15am, arriving back at about 7.45pm. The cost is £80, made up of £16.50 for the coach, £16 for lunch and £48 for the performance.

If you are interested in going on either of these trips, email Alwyn Foster at outings@bju3a.co.uk or phone her on 07717 220 237.



THEATRE NEWS



Forthcoming visits

NEW - HEATHER THE MUSICAL on Thursday 31st August at 2pm at the Theatre Royal

Winner of the best new musical 2019, Heather is a black comedy rock musical. You can dream of a better day and being a nobody might kill you but is it murder being so well known???

Price £ 40.50 No concessions available. Payment date 30th June.

NEW - EVERYBODY LOVES JAMIE on Wednesday 27th September at 2pm at the Theatre Royal

This well known and award and record-breaking musical tells the story of Jamie New. He is 16 and lives on a council estate in Sheffield. He doesn't quite fit in and is terrified about the future; but he is going to be a sensation!

Price £38.50 (no concessions) Payment date **19th July (note new payment date)**

Please contact me with any queries and information or ideas for future visits and let me know when booking if you would like to have lunch before these outings: 07443595653 /01949 838140, or email randjhutton@gmail.com.

Please note my new address:

Dane Cottage, 15 Cherry Street Bingham NG13 8AJ Tel 01949 838140/07443 595653

Jackie Hutton

NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to express a warm welcome to the following new or returning members:

Liz Burr, Gudrun Phillips, Richard Hutton

We hope they will enjoy being part of Bingham u3a and participating in the activity groups of their choice.

BREAKING NEWS

SOCIAL QUIZ to be held in September - more details to follow.

GROUP UPDATES

I have been approached re starting up an art group. Should you be interested in this I will help to organise it. I just need to know if anyone out there wants to..... Please contact me, Veronica Perry.

Tuesday Improvers French is now held at a members' houses instead of the Buttercross. Contact Joanne Collie for details: mail@jamcollie.co.uk

U3a Tuesday Walking Group



John Greenwood took these photos today of our walk from the Dirty Duck to Denton Reservoir. This photo was taken at Denton Reservoir where we

stopped for elevenses. It was a lovely walk, quite warm and it didn't rain! Food was good at the Dirty Duck. We always welcome new walkers and are a nice friendly bunch.



KNIT & NATTER

A demonstration of the wonderful work of the Knit & Natter group who meet in the Library. They were 'inspired' by the Library Inspire theme for the summer "Brave Bears", a charity for children in need.....

A friendly, relaxed group, they would welcome new members to join.



U3A Practical Gardening Group, Proposal - July 2023

Tina Patrick and others would like to see if the practical gardening group could be revived. She says:

“This group is not to replicate the existing Bingham Garden club as we are not offering trips out, speakers and evening meetings.

Instead we are offering a friendship group of interested gardeners amongst U3A members to be involved in a series of visits over the growing season to each other’s gardens.



We propose to meet on Monday or Friday pm from 2 to 4. People can introduce their garden in whatever way they wish and share various emerging interests, for example, all year seasonal interest, a small garden, a vegetable and fruit garden, a cottage garden, a wildlife garden, a low maintenance garden etc. and focus on flowers such as annuals and perennials. Other themes or issues may emerge such as future proofing our gardens as we can’t quite manage what we used to, trying to create a green space for the future of the planet, an eco garden and growing plants that will survive drier hotter summers.

We visualise the group to be a form of self help, social group with the focus on gardens and members can share their expertise, may be happy to help others with future plans and significantly may be able to share some of our precious plants with cuttings and seeds at the gardeners’ discretion! We may even be able to find out what some of them are!!

Towards the end of the season we may want to concentrate on plans for next year and pass on anything surplus to our requirements by way of cuttings etc. No doubt we can arrange an Xmas Special!”

Tina is happy to do the admin and collect details to distribute around members for meetings. If this sounds like something you would like to join in with, please contact Tina Patrick on 07801150567.

HELP! CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY VACANCIES

Yes, we still need volunteers for these two essential posts. Is there anyone with the necessary enthusiasm and esprit de corps to step forward? Contact any member of the committee to discuss.

Music Appreciation Group

Esme provided us with a huge selection of music from her collection of CDs – everything from Mozart’s wonderful ‘Horn Concerto’ via Simon & Garfunkel’s ‘Bridge over Troubled Water’ to S. S. Wesley’s mighty choral work ‘Blessed be the God and Father’ – memory lane was definitely walked down that afternoon!



The July meeting is on the 11th and will be at John & June’s home at 2 Balmoral Road in Bingham. Their theme will be ‘Songs & Music from around the World’ – could be quite different knowing John.

Please ring John and June on 01949-837115 if you would like to attend.

Unlike many groups we do not have August off on the basis that retired people go on holiday in almost any month – and probably avoid August because of school holidays – so we will meet on Tuesday August 8th at Elizabeth & Anthony’s home, 11 Grove Road, Bingham, where we will have a varied programme of ‘Summer’ themed music to enjoy. Please ring Anthony on 01949-875968 if you would like to attend.

Book Club

This month’s book was ***Commonwealth*** by Ann Patchett reviewed below:

“Ann Patchett is a reliably good author, so I was looking forward to reading this, and wasn’t disappointed.”



A novel (largely autobiographical, apparently) about siblings and step-siblings who are thrown together because of their parents’ divorces. As a book, I enjoyed it, but found it a struggle to remember who everyone was, and how they were related. The device of their lives becoming a book then a film was crafty, forcing them all to look back over their lives and come to terms with what happened.

(SPOILER ALERT!) *The way the ‘bee-sting’ incident was not fully revealed until the end was clever – despite guns being left around the house for anyone to pick up, it was something as innocent as a bee-sting that caused Cal’s death. Keeping Albie dosed up (on Cal’s meds!) to avoid him pestering the older children made me laugh – but how real might it be? And the best laugh-out-loud moment was when Teresa put the children on the plane without any luggage – brilliant! Excellent book – 8 out of 10 if we’re keeping score.”*

TUESDAY AMBLING GROUP



We had a pleasant amble around Newton and stopped to appreciate the new bronze sculpture of an unnamed Wellington bomber pilot and his spaniel, created to honour all those who served there before it closed in 2001.

It was designed by artist Tim O'Brien, from Bingham, who was an air cadet at the base in the 1980s. Mr O'Brien said: "This is a community project that has been 12 years in the making. I and some other former air cadets wanted to recognise the history of the base before it disappears under housing."

A walk to Holwell Nature Reserves



For the June walk of the 4th Wednesday group, Veronica led us to a place none of us had been before. Starting from the Sugar Loaf pub in AB Kettleby, the group set off across the fields of ripening crops to the Nature Reserves at Holwell. The weather was perfect for walking – warm and dry but without hot sun beating down on us.

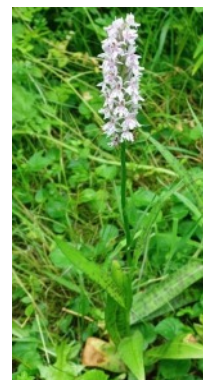
The village of Holwell is quaint with 2 historic churches. At the nature reserve we had the benefit of information leaflets which Veronica had picked up during her recce of the route earlier in the week. We were also fortunate to come across a warden who explained what we might see on the reserve.

Of note were the 'spotted' orchids, the many Ringlet butterflies and a few birdsongs such as Chiff Chaff and Blackcap identified on our 'Birdnerd' app.

Some of the party further explored the reserve and old quarry whilst others took a shorter route back to Ab Kettleby. We all met up at the pub for a drink and lunch. The 'early bird' menu providing an enjoyable selection of good value meals!

Thanks to Veronica for arranging and leading this lovely walk.

Anyone interested in joining the 4th Wednesday walking group should contact John or Glyn Greenwood (johnandglyn@btinternet.com Tel 0115 989 9798).



GROUP CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING TIMES

Monday am:

Group	<u>Ambling 1</u>	<u>Coffee Social</u>
Contact	Miriam Bingham	Any committee member
Telephone	01949 836390	01949 839946
Venue	by Church House	Buttercross Pub
Frequency	Weekly	2 nd
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am

Monday pm:

Group	<u>Cinema</u>	<u>Table Tennis</u>	<u>Board Games</u>	<u>Welsh</u>
Contact	Lindsay	Chris Skingle	Jeff Peters	Beryl Kemp
Telephone	Evet	01949 876221/	01949 875406	01949 839728
Venue	01949 851115	07979851934	Bowls Club	Library
Frequency	Butler's Coffee Hse	Bingham Arena	Oct to April	2.30pm
Time	2nd Monday 2.00 pm	1 st & 3 rd (seasonal September to April) 4 pm to 5 pm	2 nd Monday 7 pm	<u>Wine</u> Lynne Barnett 01949 875151 Various 3 rd or 4 th 2.30 pm
	<u>Spanish Conversation</u> Laura Rennie's house 2pm - alt weeks 07722499111	skinglec@gmail. com		

Tuesday am:

Group	<u>KNIT & NATTER</u>
Contact	Beryl Kemp (839728) or
Telephone	Judy Soar (837108)
Venue	Bingham Library
Frequency	Weekly
Time	10am

Tuesday pm:

Group	<u>Ambling 2</u>	<u>Gentle Exercise</u>	<u>Music Appreciation</u>
Contact	Jackie Hutton/Sue	Linda Walden	Anthony
Telephone	Eaton	01949 836717	Watts/Derrick Gierth
Venue	01949 838140/839946	Old Church Ho.	01949 875968
Frequency	07443 595653/07868	Weekly	Various
Time	153314	1-2 pm	2 nd of the month
	Car Park		2 pm
	Fortnightly @ 1 pm		
Group	<u>French Conversation 2</u>	<u>Book Club</u>	
Contact	Barbara Savage	Veronica Perry	
Telephone	01949 838782	01949 875231 or	
Venue	Various	07855 762775	
Frequency	2 nd & 4 th	Every 4 th Tuesday	
Time	2-4 pm	Library	
		2pm	

GROUP CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING TIMES

Wednesday am:

Group	<u>Walking 1</u>	<u>Walking 2</u>	<u>Walking 4</u>	<u>Petanque (Seasonal)</u>
Contact	Judith Williams	Esme Smith	John & Glyn	Beryl Kemp
Telephone	07523 645105	01949 875148	Greenwood	01949 839728
Venue	By Church House	Church Ho./Car	01159 899798	The Grange
Frequency	1 st	Share2 nd	Church Ho./Car	Alternate w'ks
Time	10 am	9.30 am	Share 4 th 9.30 am	10 - 12 midday

Wednesday pm:

Group	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>History</u>
Contact	Jean Oates	John Perry
Telephone	01949	jkp1951@gmail.com.
Venue	850864/07898895274	Church House
Frequency	Old Courthouse	4 th Wednesday
Time	fortnightly 2 - 3 pm	<u>2pm</u>

Thursday am:

Group	<u>STEM</u>	<u>Bridge</u>
Contact	Dave Hobson	Dave Copley
Telephone	01949 836042	07966370385
Venue	Methodist Church	Bowls Club
Frequency	Last Thursday(bi-monthly)	Alternate weeks
Time	11:00-12:00 Appletrees.hobson@gmail.com	10 - 12 midday

Thursday pm:

Group	<u>Croquet (Seasonal)</u>
Contact	Trish Tilley
Telephone	01949 837923
Venue	Pavilion Butt Field
Frequency	Fortnightly May to Sept.
Time	1.00 pm

Group	<u>German Conversation</u>
Contact	
Telephone	Valerie Morgan
Venue	0115 9332353
Frequency	Various
Time	Fortnightly 2.30 pm

Friday am:

Group	<u>Mobility & Movement</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
Contact	Ann Lewis	Viv Dyer
Telephone	01949 831530	01949 838614
Venue	Methodist Hall	Old Court House
Frequency	Weekly	1 st & 3 rd
Time	10 - 11 am	10.30 - 11.45 am

GROUP CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING TIMES

Friday pm:

Group **French Group 1**
Contact Lis Leslie
Telephone 01949 831602
Venue Various
Frequency Fortnightly
Time 2 - 4 pm

Group **Gardening**
Contact Tina Patrick
Telephone 07801 150567
Venue Various
Frequency TBC
Time 2.00pm

Sunday:

Group **Sunday Lunch 1**
Contact Jill Kent
Telephone 0115 9334516
Venue Various
Frequency 1st
Time 12.30 pm

Groups meeting up on various days:

Group **Theatre visits**
Contact Jackie Hutton
Telephone 01949 838140/07443 595653
Venue Various Theatres

Group **Explorers Visits**
Contact Ann Lewis
Telephone 01949 831530

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

Lots of photos, contacts and other information. www.binghamu3a.org

Why not follow us on Facebook? www.facebook.com/binghamu3a



Your Committee

POSITION	NAME	Contact Number	EMAIL
Chairman	John Lewis	01949 831530	bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Veronica Perry	01949 875231	bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judith Axtell	01949 839097	bingham.u3a.treasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Ann Lewis	01949 831530	bingham.u3a.secretary@gmail.com
Programme	Linda Molineaux	07855 762775	bingham.u3a.programme@gmail.com
Membership	Margaret Blythe	01949 831537	bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com
Publicity	John Lewis	<u>01949</u> <u>831530</u>	bingham.u3a.chairperson@gmail.com
Website	Dave Hobson		
Groups Co-ordinator	Veronica Perry	01949 875231	bingham.u3a.vicechair@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dave Hobson		bingham.u3a.newsletter@gmail.com
Database Manager	Steve Aremia	01949 831537	bingham.u3a.database@gmail.com

POSITION	NAME	Contact Number	EMAIL
New Members Support	Beryl Kemp	01949 839728	bingham.u3a.beryl.newmembers@gmail.com
Equipment Handler (non-committee)	Judy Soar	01949 837108	
Refreshments (non-committee)	Sue Eaton & Volunteers	01949 839946	

The deadline for the September 2023 edition is
Contact: Newsletter Editor
e-mail : bingham.u3a.newsletter@gmail.com

20th August