



## Members Newsletter February 2023

### A Message from the Chair

**Hello everyone**

It seems a bit daft to say this because I'm about five weeks too late, but anyway, Happy New Year! A new year, a new group. Our Food Group starts in March, and there is a trailer in this edition. It looks interesting, and I've already signed up. That is the beauty and joy of u3a – the wide range of different activities and interests to get involved with. So why not widen your horizons this year, and try another group as well as the ones you regularly attend? You never know, you might find a subject that you really enjoy!

**Trevor Robinson**

### Contents

December Monthly Meeting	p2
January Monthly Meeting	p5
Monthly Meetings in 2023	p7
Tom's Tales	p7
February photos	p8
Quiz	p9
A new Group	p10
Odds and Ends	p11
Crossword	p12
Committee Members Update	p13
Your Committee Members	p14
St Cuthbert's Way 2022 – a linear path	p15
Quiz Answers	p18
Crossword Answers	p18
End Piece	P18



**Monthly Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SAINT CUTHBERT - Jessica Turner**

At the December Meeting, Jessica Turner gave us all a lively account of the life of St Cuthbert. Cuthbert was born in 634 in Dunbar, possibly to a noble family. He was fostered by Kenswith and brought up in Duns.



The photo opposite show a statue of St Cuthbert on Lindisfarne.

Cuthbert worked as a shepherd and whilst tending his sheep he witnessed a vision of Saint Aidan ascending to heaven above Bamburgh.

He believed this vision was a call to Holy Orders and he entered the abbey of Melrose in 651 aged 17 years. After being received into monastic life he carried out the Celtic Christian tradition of travelling and teaching Christianity. He was pious but a good leader which made him popular.

In 655, aged 21 years, Cuthbert became Guest Master at the newly established Monastery in Ripon, and it was here that he met Wilfred, a quarrelsome supporter of the Roman Christian doctrine.

Cuthbert himself, though educated in Celtic traditions, followed his mentor Eata in accepting Roman reforms but when Wilfred became Abbot Cuthbert returned to Melrose.

In 661 Melrose was struck by the plague, afflicting Cuthbert and killing the prior, whom he succeeded. Thereafter, he aided plague victims while missioning throughout the countryside, reportedly performing miracles.

After the great Synod of Whitby in AD 664, Cuthbert was called away from Melrose. He accompanied his superior, Eata, to Aidan's monastery on the Isle of Lindisfarne, where he was made Abbot. As prior, Cuthbert was placed in charge of the monks, to whom he quickly endeared himself.

Cuthbert longed for solitude and in 675 he left his post in the monastery for the life of a hermit, first on the tiny Hobthrusch Island, then on Inner Farne for the peace he longed for, eventually confining himself to his cell. He had the birds for company, and in later years people called the eider ducks "Cuddy's ducks" in affectionate memory of him.

## December Monthly Meeting – contd

He respected all of God's creatures, sharing his food with birds and animals and allowing otters to dry his feet by rubbing them with their fur. In 684, Cuthbert became Bishop of Lindisfarne resigning two years later to return to Inner Farne. Cuthbert died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 687 and was buried on Lindisfarne.

According to Bede's life of the saint, when Cuthbert's sarcophagus was opened eleven years after his death, his body was found to have been perfectly preserved or incorrupt. This apparent miracle led to the steady growth of Cuthbert's popularity, to the point where he became the most popular saint of Northern England. Numerous miracles were attributed to his intervention.

In 875 the Danes took the monastery of Lindisfarne and the monks fled, carrying St Cuthbert's body, Viking Raids later forced his followers to move inland, taking his body with them. They travelled to Norham, Chester-le-Street and, finally, Durham (see picture opposite – The Journey).



In 1104 Cuthbert's tomb was opened again and his relics translated to a new shrine behind the altar of the recently completed Durham Cathedral. When the casket was opened, a small book of the Gospel of John was found. This is the oldest Western book to have retained its original bookbinding, in finely decorated leather.

Cuthbert's shrine was destroyed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries, but, unusually, his relics survived and are still interred at the site, although they were also disinterred in the 19th century, when his wooden coffin and various relics were removed. St Cuthbert's coffin remains at the cathedral and is an important rare survival of Anglo-Saxon carving on wood. When the coffin was last inspected on 17 May 1827, a Saxon square cross of gold was found. It was embellished with garnets, in the characteristic splayed shape and used later as the heraldic emblem of St Cuthbert and in the coat of arms for Durham and Newcastle universities.



Finally, the photo opposite is the St Cuthbert Window in Durham Cathedral (courtesy of Colin Gough).

**Maureen Sayers**

## December Monthly Meeting – contd

The meeting also included our Christmas Social. Unfortunately, your editor didn't take any photos of everyone enjoying themselves (the mulled wine was especially popular). However, here are photos of some of your Committee members, and Jessica, in action.



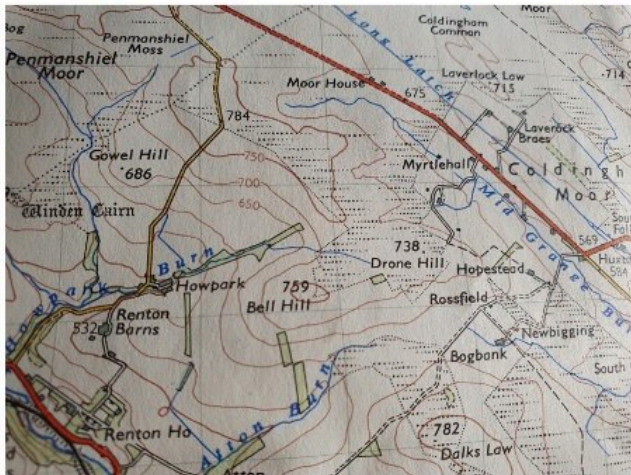
## Monthly Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January HISTORIC ORIGINS OF RIGHTS OF WAY- Sue Rogers

Sue Rogers gave an interesting account of how to find lost ways and record them for future generations.

We have a unique rights of way network all legally recorded, which includes public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, byways open to all traffic, unclassified county roads, public carriageways and lonnens (Tyneside lanes and streets).

These byways came into being through common usage, walking, horse-riding and the use of horse and carts to transfer goods, plus the advent of private and public carriages.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century most people travelled for a reason rather than for pleasure. Local people would travel to church or work, farmers would take their stock to market, drovers would bring cattle from the Borders to the mart at Morpeth all travelling along local routes. There were Turnpike routes and Postmen paths which may just be the most direct route across fields between farms.



The legal basis of our current rights of way network stems from the National Parks and Countryside Act of 1949. During the 1950's parish councils were responsible for reporting all rights of way in their parish, unfortunately many

members of parish councils were also landowners who perhaps were not so keen in advertising rights of way on their land.

## January Monthly Meeting – contd

A draft definitive map was produced by the surveying authorities for consultation. The original categories included, public footpaths, public bridleways and roads used as public paths.

There were omissions and errors from the original map, many people have spent years setting the record straight by researching old routes in order that rights of way can be restored. It can take many years to redress the balance on this issue, but it is a means to protect the rights of way network for future generations.

“Once a Highway always a Highway” is a legal maxim unless a path has been legally closed. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 provides a procedure for changes to the definitive map and statement. It enables the addition of ways that have been omitted, the upgrading or downgrading of ways that have been inaccurately recorded and the extinguishment of ways that have been added in error.



If when you are out walking or horse-riding you come across a change of status at a Parish boundary, such as a newly locked gate or a “private” sign on a route that has been used by the public or a recently removed fingerpost or waymark, these are recognised problems that require further research to record and restore the rights of way network for future use.

Finally, Sue told the audience that she would like to assist any of our members who would like help to reinstate a right of way.

**Maureen Sayers**

## Monthly Meetings in 2023

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> - Louise Percival - "Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Modern World" - Is there still a place for it?

Mar 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 Tom Allen - "The Early Northern Railways" - Exploring the railways of old in the North

Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Maria Chester - "The Art of Bonampak" - Learn about the culture of the Mayans from their art

May 18<sup>th</sup> Andy Griffin - "Cuthbert Collingwood" - The Northumbrian who saved the Nation

June 15<sup>th</sup> Dinah Iredale - "Bondagers" - The forgotten workers of Northumberland and the Borders

July 20<sup>th</sup> Possible Summer Outing

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Professor Brian Ward, American Studies, Northumbria University - "Transatlantic Blues: 60's N.E. Music Scene & the Civil Rights Movement"

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Edward Cartner, Published Author - "Amusing tales from the R.A.F."

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> Sam Stephenson, Senior Coastguard, Seahouses - "The work of the Coast Guard"

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Martin Shingler, Senior Lecturer in Radio and Film Studies, University of Sunderland - "Diana Dors: Film Star, Actor and Paperback Writer"

Note that the December date is one week earlier than normal, due to hall availability. The Christmas Social will also take place on that day.

## Tom's Tales

1) A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time.

2) My daughter asked me for a pet spider, so I went to the local pet shop and they were £70! Blow that, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

3) I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

**Tom Burroughs**

# February Photos

This month's theme is Street Art - all photos taken by Alan Sayers.



Subway wall in Trier, Germany



Sand Sculpture, Turin



Luberon Village, France,



Wall Art Saluzzo, Italy



Street Sculpture, Melbourne



Window Shutters, Prague



# Quiz

1	What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
2	What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags?
3	What is the name of Wendy's dog in Peter Pan?
4	What year was Heinz established?
5	Which seaside is home to the longest pier in the UK?
6	What year did Elvis die?
7	Which new British military force was established in 1918?
8	In which English seaside town was 'Fawlty Towers' set?
9	Who discovered Penicillin?
10	What is the most spoken language in the world?
11	What is the name of the headteacher in Roald Dahl's Matilda?
12	In what year was the Chernobyl disaster?
13	What colour is a giraffe's tongue?
14	In the film "The Lion King", what kind of animal is Timon?
15	Who plays Tommy Shelby in Peaky Blinders?
16	How many legs does a lobster have?
17	In which century did Leonardo da Vinci paint The Last Supper?
18	How many Academy Awards did 1994 film Forest Gump win?
19	Hamlet was the Prince of which country?
20	Which French artist was best known for his paintings of ballet dancers?
21	In a decathlon,, how many events are held on a running track?
22	Which TV detective lives in the village of St Mary Mead?
23	Which Queen of England had the name "Bloody Mary"?
24	Gary and Martin Kemp were in what band?
25	Which UK act won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1981?
26	What is the name of the final book in the Harry Potter series?
27	Which sign of the Zodiac is represented by the Scales?
28	Who is the voice of Shrek?
29	How many teeth does an adult human have?
30	What famous man became president of his country after 18 years in prison?

## A New Group

At the January Monthly meeting we asked for interest in a new group – **FOOD** – and a number of people said they would like to attend.

It will be a member-led group where each third Wednesday at 10am in St Michaels Hall you'll be able to remember and share different food related themes. Most group members will be able to take turns to contribute at meetings. I hope this will involve lots of laughing as well as learning, not least getting to know each other. The first theme is "your oldest kitchen utensil" – please bring it if it is easy to carry!

Details are now on the website. The initial schedule of meetings is (subject to change) :

15th March	Introduction plus bring your oldest utensil
19th April	Read your favourite recipe from your oldest recipe book
17th May	Share stories from meals out
21st June	Food surprises on holiday
19th July	Bring or talk about your newest kitchen gadget
No Meeting in August	
20th September	Favourite TV food/cooking programme
18th October	Favourite regional food
15th November	Tricks and hacks in the kitchen
20th December ?	Review, planning 2024 topics. Share Christmas food traditions

**Carollyn McDonald – Group Leader**

## **Feedback & contributions are very welcome!**

Please send any comments on this newsletter, suggestions for improvement and contributions for future editions to:

[Newsletter.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com)

The next newsletter will be published on 6<sup>th</sup> March, and the contributions deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

# Odds and Ends

My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect. And for that I am eternally grapefruit.

1<sup>st</sup> person – I've got a half-brother

2<sup>nd</sup> person – Different mother?

1<sup>st</sup> person – No, shark attack

I have the body of an 18-year-old. I keep it in the freezer.

A couple in a restaurant ask a waitress:

“We don't eat dairy, eggs, meat, soy, gluten or nuts, so what do you recommend we get?”

The waitress replies:

“A taxi.”

I was once so broke, I couldn't afford to pay my electricity bill.

Those were the darkest days of my life.

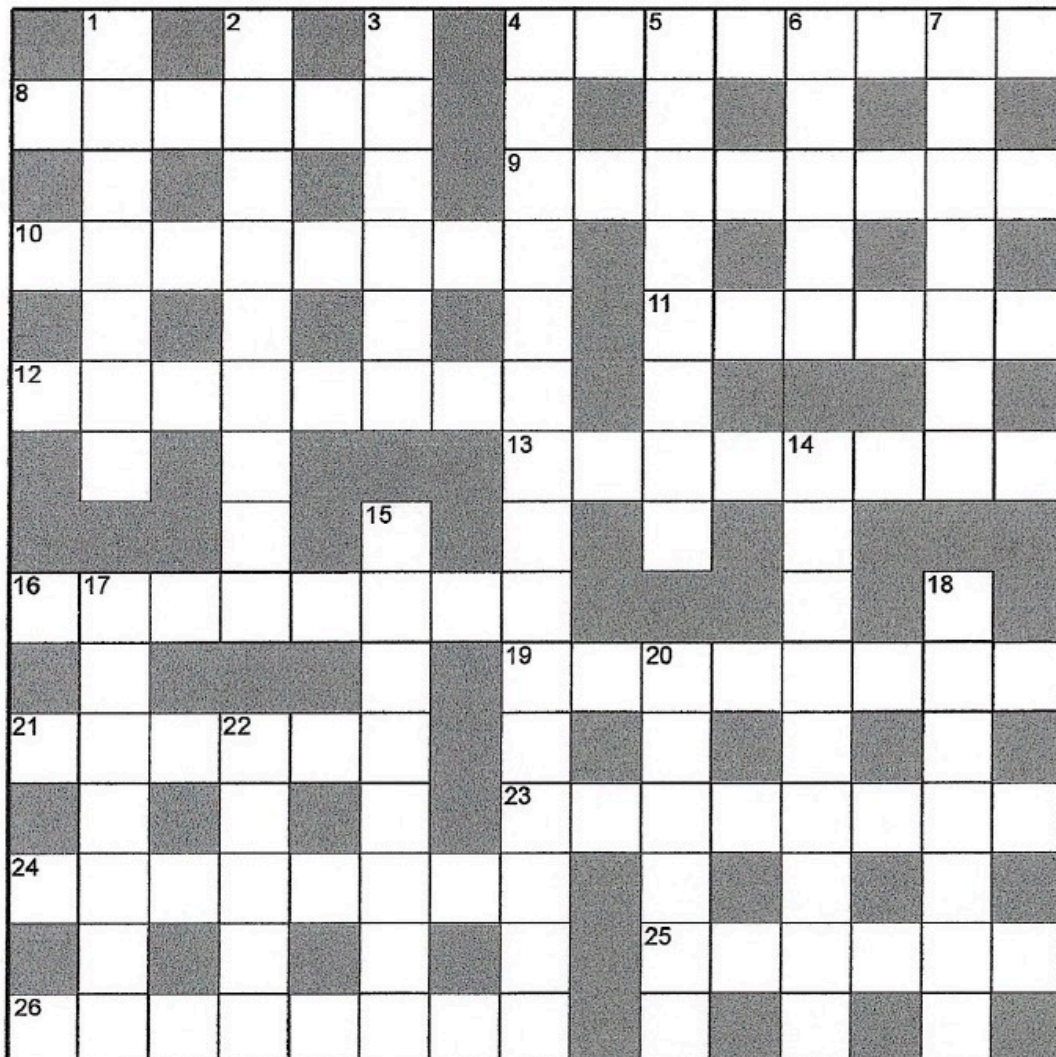
Father speaking to his son – “I still remember what my grandfather said just before he kicked the bucket”.

His son asks “What did he say Dad?”

Father replies “He said, I wonder how far I can kick this bucket?”

# Crossword

(courtesy of Maureen and Alan Sayers)



## ACROSS

- 4 This search for an atom requires an answer (8)
- 8 Old former student returned to the wine cellar (6)
- 9 Half of them are crazy about cheese (8)
- 10 Wrongly preserve something that is inappropriate (8)
- 11 Abridged version of a television series (6)
- 12 Ruined resort on the Bay of Naples (8)
- 13 No tolls on these roads (8)
- 16 Some sort of pie chart found at the beginning of a book (8)
- 19 Some of them ending up making corrections (8)
- 21 Starting point for a Shakespearean character (6)
- 23 Reverse the decision to underscore (8)
- 24 Remote destination (8)
- 25 By the sound of it, one's been turfed out of his/her seat (6)
- 26 Look again at the investigation (8)

## DOWN

- 1 The tedium of having a bedroom that's badly in need of restyling (7)
- 2 Working hard at building a lodge (9)
- 3 Two men apply to be a sponsor (6)
- 4 Squad with royal connections play north of the border (5,2,3,5)
- 5 Became trapped because hem needs altering (8)
- 6 It's a principle, whichever way you look at it (5)
- 7 Public speaking, especially in a chapel (7)
- 14 Strolling players (9)
- 15 We'd be lost without him (8)
- 17 Make this a word of honour (7)
- 18 Looking to get the okay to bring the rods into action (7)
- 20 The occasions when Steven is upset (6)
- 22 Set of facts and figures can be laid out on this (5)

# Committee Members Update

Since the AGM last October, Jeanette Wilkinson has resigned from the Committee. Anthea Jackson became a co-opted Member at the Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

The next AGM will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

<b>Trevor Robinson</b>	Chair (and Newsletter Editor) chair.u3a.alnwick@gmail.com
<b>Carollyn McDonald</b>	Vice Chair
<b>Maureen Sayers</b>	Secretary secretary.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com
<b>George Ellames</b>	Treasurer
<b>Pat Ashton</b>	Membership Secretary membership.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com
<b>Anne McMillan</b>	Groups Coordinator groups.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com
<b>Kathy Platt</b>	Speaker Secretary
<b>Anthea Jackson</b>	Co-opted Member

## Your Committee Members

This is a new feature where Committee members can say a bit about themselves. First up is **Carollyn McDonald**, our Vice Chair.

Thank you first of all for the welcome I found last year when, newly retired, I joined Alnwick u3a. I've been able to fulfil a long held ambition to be in a book club and be pretty sure I will have read the book in a month! I'm reading a Hilary Mantel book where Cromwell describes himself as having different lives covering careers, relationships and locations where he has lived. I liked this approach, and for me there have been so many 'lives' to describe it got me reflecting. After a career in Personnel Management I ran my own business, returning to Human Resources/Training and Development and Organisational Change. What contrasting sectors:- Poultry Processing, General Practice, Chiropody, Housing Associations, Plastic Extrusion, Local Authorities, and Job Clubs. This home is the 30<sup>th</sup> I have lived in, in 13 different States and Counties. The last paid role I retired from was as a vicar in the Church of England, serving 5 rural parishes in Derbyshire, while contributing to national and regional support for people called to serve in the church. This year I've found opportunities to volunteer, to serve, to have fun and to enjoy creativity in crafts; I am again 'reinvented' as myself, in a new season or 'life', feeling very blessed, and looking forward to what might come next. And to my surprise, on the committee of your u3a as well!

## St Cuthbert's Way 2022 – A linear long-distance path

2022 saw 16 members of the Alnwick u3a long walking group complete St Cuthbert's Way, a 62.5 mile long distance walking route from the Scottish Borders to the Northumberland Coast. The photographs show the highs and lows of our trek!



The walk was divided into 6-day walks – On the 8<sup>th</sup> June we all gathered in the pouring rain by Melrose Abbey. On **Day 1** the first challenge was the climb out of Melrose towards the saddle between the two main Eildon Hills. A sharp incline which was made more difficult due to the inclement weather.

Fortunately, the descent was quick, and a welcoming bus shelter provided a dry refreshment stop. Still smiling we continued onto the banks of the river Tweed. At this point the sun appeared, providing glorious views of the morning's climb. The walking track at the side of the river led us to our destination - Maxton.



The group had 12 miles under their belt!



**Day 2** couldn't have been any different, a lovely sunny day in July – Maxton to Morebattle.



We marched along the Roman Road passing Lady Lilliard's Stone, which commemorates her bravery at the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1545. Further along the walk we came across fields of gold, only to discover it was

the summer crops swaying in the gentle breeze. A quick stop to enjoy Gill's homemade flapjack, before pushing on to Morebattle ...which felt never ending due to the 16 miles walked.



**Days 3 & 4** covered some of the best walking terrain of the Scottish Borders and The Cheviot Hills. Up and down the track went. Morebattle to Wideopen Hill (the highest point), Kirk Yetholm, Rlsdonburn, Hethpool and Wooler.



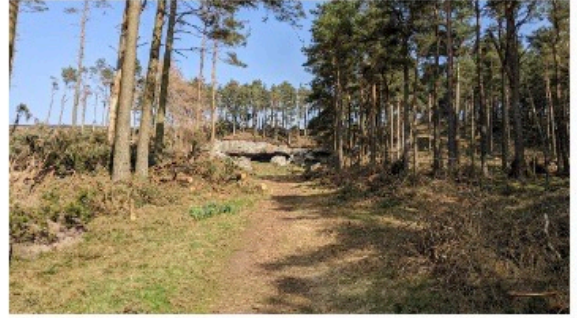
Another 19 miles completed.

**Day 5** was tremendous. The weather was perfect for walking and the route exceptional. First, we crossed Weetwood Moor with its breath-taking views before crossing a 16<sup>th</sup> century bridge. Its predecessor was used by the English Army on their way to victory at Flodden in 1513.





Onwards to Doddington Moor, St Cuthbert's statue and St Cuthbert's Cave.



The best view was still to come. As we climbed Fawcett Hill, Holy Island appeared in front of us glistening in the afternoon sun. Our destination, one walk away.



**Day 6**, Fenwick to Wooler was to be a day of celebration, however the weather hadn't read the memo...it was wet and dreary. But the weather didn't match our spirits, with great expectations we walked the causeway to Lindisfarne Abbey and a photo call. A feeling of achievement.



This wasn't to be the last of the linear walks for the long walking group; 2023 has a challenge in the form of **The Inn Way to Northumberland**, a 100-mile trail. All details can be found on the u3a website for the long walking group. Come and join us.

**Words by Julie Hall with photographs from Gill Battye, Mike Still and John Davidson**

## Quiz Answers

1	Green	16	Eight
2	Red	17	Fifteenth century
3	Nana	18	Six
4	1869	19	Denmark
5	Southend-on-Sea	20	Edgar Degas
6	1977	21	Four
7	RAF	22	Miss Marple
8	Torquay	23	Mary I
9	Alexander Fleming	24	Spandau Ballet
10	Mandarin	25	Bucks Fizz
11	Miss Trunchbull	26	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
12	1986	27	Libra
13	Blue	28	Mike Myers
14	Meerkat	29	32
15	Cillian Murphy	30	Nelson Mandela

## Crossword Answers

**ACROSS** - 4 Question. 8 Bodega. 9 Emmental. 10 Perverse. 11 Sitcom. 12 Sorrento. 13 Freeways. 16 Epigraph. 19 Emending. 21 Bottom. 23 Overrule. 24 Timbuktu. 25 Throne. 26 Research.

**DOWN** - 1 Boredom. 2 Beavering. 3 Patron. 4 Queen Of The South. 5 Enmeshed. 6 Tenet. 7 Oratory. 14 Wanderers. 15 Mapmaker. 17 Promise. 18 Angling. 20 Events. 22 Table.

### End Piece

*Leaves rust on damp earth while  
 Winter waits for frost  
 Trees dream of Spring while  
 Snowdrops lighten the darkness*

**Mary Atkinson**