

The GAZETTE



Issue No 89

February 2024

They're there for 3,200,000 of us



A report of our charity fund-raiser is on Pages 14 and 15.



Our Chairman's Remarks

My **Lift Speech** in the last edition of the Gazette - "*Bu3a provides retired and partly retired people with the opportunity to participate in shared activities with other like-minded people, to enjoy their company, to make new friends and to expand skills and knowledge*" - was queried by a respected friend. We debated this over a relaxed coffee at The Rutland Hotel.



Although the **Lift Speech** was strictly accurate in describing WHAT we do, it was, "a bit wordy", and did not say HOW we do things. What was also required, he said, was a description of our values; that is "the way we do things around here". I thought he was on to something and described a small but pertinent example which might help clarify things.

Tucked away in the Medway Centre is a collage portraying the history of Bakewell. It comprises beautifully embroidered pictures, all telling their own story. The whole adds up to far more than the sum of its parts: Bakewell is portrayed, not just as a town, but as a living, breathing community which has evolved over the centuries and continues to do so. This collage was created by our own Craft Group. And what, you may ask, does this have to do with our values?

The collage is a reflection of their curiosity (what to depict and how best to portray), the need for action (hard work and punctured fingers), the willingness to take responsibility as best they can for their own particular piece of the collage, and to help others when required, and, most important, throughout the project they enjoyed each other's company and the satisfaction from a job well done. My friend said: "That's it!" We must:

Remain Curious
Stay Active
Be Responsible
And ... Enjoy

So there we have it. A template for our values, to reflect, "How we do things around here". But my friend is hard to please. "That's all well and good," he says, "but Bu3a still needs a vision!" Well, that's the next thing your committee will

formulate. In the meantime they, and you, the members, have not been idle. By the time you read this, a “Bring and Buy Sale,” accompanied, of course, by tea and quality biscuits, will have taken place in Baslow Village Hall; a Didgeridoo will have echoed around the Friends Meeting House and the Cooking By Men group will have served a two-course meal to the members of the Baslow Luncheon Club. All this on top of normal group activities.

Additionally we are investing time and effort in raising our profile within our locality. We have to recruit a younger generation of members to ensure we thrive into the future. With this in mind Jen Coffey is writing pieces for the local press and Jonathan Wicksteed is seeking to establish new groups. They have written a piece outlining some of their thoughts entirely consistent with our values (see Page 12)

You may also have noticed that communication with our members is now via “Beacon,” the central u3a database, available across the country for all local groups to buy into (*and explained in a bit more detail on Page 13*). Thanks must go to Phil Clarke, our Database Manager, who has transferred our membership data to Beacon. This will ensure greater security, easier access to data and, longer-term, the integration of financial data. It will be made good use of by Kath Hopkins, who has agreed to become our Membership Secretary. Kath has moved here from Brecon u3a where she worked with Beacon, so we are fortunate to be able to benefit from her previous experience and I extend to her a very warm welcome

This is also a good opportunity to say thank you to our Editor, Glenys. She publishes *The Gazette* four times a year, is an integral member of the Meg Laird group which promotes our social programme, and has also been de facto Bu3a Membership Secretary for some time. Now that Kath has arrived Glenys can revert to having just two Bu3a roles!

If, like Kath and Glenys, you would like to join our active team then please let us know. In particular we are looking to make more use of social media, to continue to develop our website, and to introduce more groups. Just remember our values:

**Remain Curious, stay Active, be Responsible,
and ... Enjoy.**

Peter Holt, Chairman Jan 2024



Editor's Ponderings

When you've put quite a bit of effort into organising something, and not too many people attend, it can be extremely frustrating to meet people afterwards, who say, "Oh, I'd have come if I'd known about it," - particularly when it was in the Gazette. One of the favourite replies of a friend who shall remain nameless, to members who've forgotten something, is **"It was in the Gazette!"** So, here's a little plea, on behalf of anyone who organises something and advertises it in these pages -

Please read your Gazette with your calendar or diary open beside you, and enter anything you think you MAY be interested in. And remind each other about Meg Lairds and Coffee Mornings and AGMs and trips, just in case. I think this is particularly important if you have an email Gazette, which disappears down the email list, and may be lost forever, without having been read as thoroughly as a paper one can be, as you can pick it up and flick through bits of it a dozen times.

I've been reminded, quite forcibly, in the last month or so, how much pleasure can be achieved from actually doing something you've been thinking about for ages - though it DOES need to be something you WANT to do. I wanted to re-wallpaper my smallest room. I'd previously seen some very colourful wallpaper with exotic birds on it, used as a border in a charity shop, and been very much taken with it. We kept parrots for a long time, though, sadly, no more. I'd googled idly, and not found the right one. Then I googled again, found it, ordered two rolls - it was only 8 drops - and could hardly wait to get the decorating table out. And it looks amazing, it was done in time to impress my son, when he visited at Christmas, (he was brought up with parrots) and I've only recently stopped dragging selected visitors up to view. I can't believe the delight fulfilling this minor ambition has brought me. And still is.

Editor



"He's not so much 'raging against the dying of the light' as 'having a bit of a whinge at the dusk'"

I don't usually rate Private Eye cartoons but a couple have amused me this issue. In fact, I think this is my favourite. Or the snail. Ed

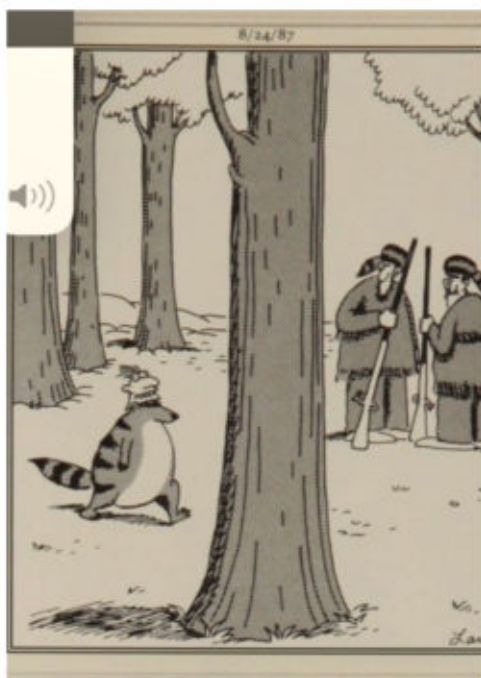
Doctor, Doctor: I think I'm shrinking. Now settle down, you'll just have to be a little patient.

Doctor, Doctor: Can I have a second opinion? Certainly, come back tomorrow.

Doctor, Doctor: I keep thinking I'm invisible. Who said that?



Just in case anyone was curious to see my wallpaper.





Notice of BU3A Annual General Meeting 2024

To be held at the Friends Meeting House, Bakewell Thursday 21 March 2024, at 2.00 pm (put it in your diary now).

Agenda



- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of 2023 AGM
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Treasurer's report and approval of 2023 accounts
- 6 Election of committee members and vice chair
- 7 Beacon record system
- 8 Awareness of BU3A
- 9 Any other business (10 Scones with jam and cream)

Questions will be taken during the meeting or can be submitted to the secretary up to 24 hours before the meeting.

Nominations for the office of vice chairman are sought, using the form on Pages 7 and 8. Minutes of the 2023 AGM are available on the BU3A website and at the meeting. The Treasurer's report and accounts for 2022 will also be available at the meeting, and a brief report from the Treasurer is on Page 9.

The committee has decided to allow proxy voting by members who do not attend in person. Any member can appoint another member (their proxy) to vote on their behalf. A proxy vote can be cast only by a proxy who attends the meeting in person. Appointment must be in advance, using the form on Pages 7 and 8 which must be received by the committee at least 24 hours before the AGM. Delivery can be by post to the Secretary at the address shown on the Nomination Form or by email to secretary@bakewellu3a.org.uk, sending an image of the

completed form. The Chairman can be appointed as a proxy, as can any other member of BU3A who will attend the AGM.

A member who appoints a proxy can instruct their proxy how to vote or can give the proxy discretion to vote as the proxy thinks fit. There will be votes on acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM, the accounts for 2023 and elections. These votes are important to running of BU3A. A member who appoints a proxy, who does attend, will count towards the quorum for the meeting. It is important that a quorum is achieved. If you do not expect to attend, please appoint a proxy, in order that we can achieve a quorum.

Bakewell Area U3A

Appointment of proxy

This form (completed and signed) must be received by the committee of BU3A more than 24 hours before the relevant meeting

I of

appoint the Chair of the Meeting or
(Name) (delete as necessary), to attend and vote on my behalf at the
general meeting of BU3A, on (date)
and at any adjournment of that meeting

I wish my proxy to make the following comment to the meeting

Continued overleaf

Nomination form for Vice-Chair

I am a member of BU3A, and agree to
be nominated for election to the position of Vice-Chair at the AGM
on Thursday, 21 March 2024.

Signature of nominated member

Continues overleaf

Be careful what you wish for. Tom walks into a bar and sees a man, 12 inches high, on the counter, playing a piano. "Where did he come from," Tom asks the barman. "I wished for him," he replies. "I've got a magic beer bottle that grants requests. Rub it and see what happens." So Tom rubs the bottle and a genie pops out. "I can grant you one wish," says the genie, "what would you like?" Tom thinks, then says, "I'd like a million bucks, please." "OK," says the genie and - poof - the genie vanishes and the bar is filled to the ceiling with ducks. "Hey, I didn't ask for a million ducks!" The barman replies, "Do you think I wanted a 12 inch pianist?"

Proxy form continued My instructions to my proxy concerning voting at the meeting are:

.....

Signature ----- Date -----

Note: Your proxy must be a member of BU3A. Both your and their membership payment must be up to date on the day of the meeting.

Your proxy must attend the relevant meeting, in order to vote on your behalf. Even after sending this form to the committee, you can choose to attend the meeting and vote yourself, thereby terminating your appointment of a proxy.

You can instruct your proxy how to vote on your behalf on any matter or you can instruct your proxy to vote on your behalf as they think fit or to abstain or any combination of such instructions. There is, above, space to include your instructions. Alternatively, you can instruct your proxy privately, leaving these parts of the form blank.

Nomination Form (Continued)

Proposed by _____ BU3A member

Seconded by _____ BU3A member

Please return to Sam Lewis, Shacklow, Mires Lane, Rowland,
Great Longstone, DE45 1NP
by Thursday, 12 March 2024



A summary of Bakewell Area U3A's Accounts for 2023

Our U3A's finances started the 2023 year at £10,404.63 and ended the year at £10,462.40 a credit of £57.77. The largest items of income were members' subs. The largest items of expenditure were on room hire, subscriptions to the Third Age Trust (U3A's national organisation) and production of the Gazette. In addition to the amounts above, our U3A bank account holds £800 for the Craft Group's tapestry project

The finances will be audited in time for the AGM on 21 March.

The accounts do not include money held separately by some of our Groups.

Neil Sharples

Please note that Neil Sharples has taken over from Martin Pape as our U3A Treasurer.

Can I help? A golfer is thrashing through the bushes looking for a lost ball. An old lady watches him as she sits on a bench knitting. After 20 minutes the old lady asks, "Excuse me, is it against the rules if I tell you where it is?"



As you know, I never repeat gossip. So listen carefully, I'm only going to tell you this once. When one barber cuts another's hair, which one does the talking? Some cause happiness wherever they go - others, whenever they go.

Oscar Wilde

MLT

Christmas and all that jazz

So this was our extra Meg Laird gathering - billed as a bit of pre-Christmas jollity. **The 3 Johns** performed delightfully and those of us who attended drank our mulled wine, munched our mince pies and enjoyed a very pleasant occasion. It's probably fair to acknowledge that the organisers had hoped for a slightly larger audience, though the



3 Johns assured us they'd played to far smaller ones, and as audiences went, we measured up very well. Perhaps next year a few more of you will put the date in your calendar. After all, what's not to like?



Doctor, Doctor: I snore so loudly I keep myself awake.
Have you tried sleeping in another room?



Trying to Reduce Modern Life's Risks

The organisers of our Reducing Risk meeting back in November were delighted that around 100 people, members and non-members, came along to hear an excellent speaker, *Samantha Hancock*, *Cyber Protect Officer, Derbyshire Police*, who warned us about all sorts of problems, and ways of making ourselves safer and more aware. Which was very good. There's no doubt that although the point of the meeting was to make us feel safer, becoming more aware about all the potential threats out there could also make us a bit more worried. Hey ho - sometimes you can't win. And everyone managed to get a cup of tea during the break, along with top quality biscuits.

MLT

**Another Meg Laird gathering
Tuesday, 30 April 2024**

****And this time it's at the Friends' Meeting House ****

**Our very own Gill Roberts's talk is titled
"The Camp Follower"**

Gill spent 30 years as a diplomat's wife, working in 11 countries. Her husband, Graham, was the diplomat. Her tales of living a life most of us can't begin to imagine form the basis of her talk. The usual 2 pm for 2.15 pm start, £3, refreshments, non-members most welcome



****AND IT'S AT THE
FRIENDS, NOT THE
MEDWAY ****



TOO GOOD A DEED



Frank approaches the pearly gates and asks for admittance. Saint Peter asks him if he's ever done any good deeds. "Why, yes," he replies. "I saved a young woman from being attacked by a gang on motor bikes. I ran my car over their bikes, then got out and kicked one in the crotch until he let the girl go." "Really," says

Saint Peter, "that isn't in our records. When did this take place?" "Oh, about five minutes ago," Frank replies.

WATCH THIS SPACE . . .



Bakewell u3a is developing. There are plans afoot for 2024 - and onwards.

We can't say much yet. BUT the next Gazette in early May will take off the wraps.

Expect to hear about some exciting new groups . . . and an Open Day in May at the Medway that will introduce them to you, our members, and to our wider public.

The Open Day will also showcase all our existing groups - do, please, begin to consider how your group might be represented. We aim to demonstrate the wide range of our activities, from creative writing to cookery, from walking to modern languages.

We hope you will also notice more coverage of Bu3a activities in the local Bakewell press and in the magazines and websites of its surrounding villages. We've hidden our light under the

proverbial bushel for too long - now it is time to be seen. Because if we are to thrive we have to grow. And that's what we're aiming to do.



Jen Coffey and Jonathan Wicksteed



A BEACON OF PROGRESS

New Year - New Systems! As some of you may know, the u3a nationally offers a software application to help with branch administration. It's called **Beacon** and I'm pleased to announce

that Bakewell Area u3a went 'live' on **Beacon** on 6th January.

This software will help with many day-to-day branch management functions including membership records, subscriptions, finance, emails in bulk, and group management. Before **Beacon**, member records were held on a single computer managed by a single Committee member (me!). This meant all the information going onto, and retrieved from, the computer had to go through me, and that bottleneck resulted in a large number of emails flying to and fro, and, occasionally, delays when people were unavailable. With **Beacon** all the information is held centrally and securely, and is instantly available to all the officials who need to use it - 24 hours a day.

What does this mean for members? To be honest, as this development is 'behind the scenes,' you probably won't notice much change at first. If you receive the emails we send out to members you may have noticed we used a company called Mailchimp, who would put a marketing message at the bottom of each message. **Beacon** allows us to bring that round robin emailing 'in house' - which is more efficient.



We've adopted a 'baby steps' approach to using the system at the moment, just using a limited set of the functions offered, with a view to adding more as we become familiar with the application. As an example - one ambition the Committee has for 2024 is to engage more with Groups and Group Leaders, and **Beacon** has tools to help with this. So watch this space.

Phil Clarke, Database Manager

PS - If you'd like to find out more, the Beacon website is here
<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/>

A most worthwhile afternoon



Well, the organisers of our Coffee Afternoon thought it went off pretty well, and we hope the many, many members who turned up at Baslow Village Hall on Monday, 22 January, agree with us. Thank you to so many for joining us in aid of our “good cause” for this year. We’d gathered to support our local Air Ambulance, the Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Northampton and Rutland branch.

We had a lovely, colourful Air Ambulance stall womaned by Tracy Jones, Community Fund-raising Executive, and she told us a lot about the work of Air Ambulance. Some fascinating facts which MUST be shared with you all: the two helicopters are Augustus Westland 109s, top speed of 185 miles, and they attend across the counties of Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. These two helicopters provide a rapid response to trauma and medical emergencies over an area of 3,850 square miles covering many of the UK’s major road networks including the M1, M6, M69 and M42. That’s a population of 3.2 million people. They’re in the air in 4 minutes, with an average response of just 13 minutes, between them they attend, on average, 6 missions a day. They need a landing circle of 26 meters, and they’re never not on duty.

Each ambulance comes with a pilot (of course!), a consultant doctor (seconded from the NHS) and a paramedic. This position is highly

prized, and only available for application from paramedics with 5 - 10 years experience, and, if accepted, they face a further 2 years of training.



What's perhaps less well-known is that there are green air ambulances, whose job is to transport critically ill children, up to 18 years, wherever they need to be taken. And these are more expensive to fund - £3,500 per mission. The yellow,

adult ones are cheaper, at £2,500 per mission! Gifts in wills form the funding for one in every seven flights.

Just as an aside, having an afternoon rather than a morning removed the stress of getting up (for me) very early to prepare for a 10.00 am start. It would be interesting to know whether members thought an afternoon was as convenient and enjoyable as a morning? Mention your opinion to any Meg Laird/Social Team member: Alisoun Cunningham, Annette Dwyer-Joyce, Glenys Moore, Jill Ormerod, Anne Peller, Gill Roberts, Sheila Sidebottom or Jean Sutton.



Thanks to Jane Burgess for the cartoons which aren't from Private Eye.

The event at Baslow raised £395, so far Anne has received £140 in cash donations from non-attenders, and there's still time to contribute, if you'd like to, by sending a donation, either a cheque - c/o Anne Peller, St Martins, Butts View, Bakewell, DE45 1FE or a bank transfer to 08 92 99 Account 65438345. The account name is BU3A Meg Laird Meetings Group.

The Meg Laird/Social Team

Getting to know you . . .

We go to our U3A groups, we join in the activities, we chat a little, we enjoy some refreshments - but often we know very little about our fellow members. To encourage us to find out more, I've asked a couple of coordinators to tell us something about themselves.

Here is Linda Fussey, coordinator of the Art group, engaged in one of her favourite pastimes - well dressing.

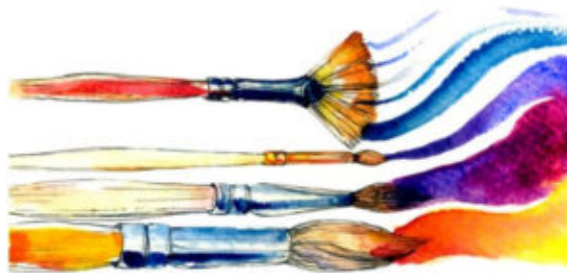
Linda was educated at the James Allen Girls' School in Dulwich and at Cambridge University, where she read Natural Sciences. It was at Cambridge that she met her future husband, John. But it was music, not science, which brought them together. This musical interest, especially in choral music, has persisted through all of their lives. After Cambridge, Linda became a

science teacher. Though not a native of Derbyshire, Linda has lived in the county for 37 years, settling here after living in a variety of counties in the UK. For 19 years she taught at the Lady Manners School in Bakewell.

Linda enjoys opportunities for a variety of cultural experiences on her visits to her relatives - a sister in Austria and her two sons elsewhere in the U.K.

It might seem a little surprising, given her strong scientific and musical interests, that Linda should co-ordinate the Art Group. But not so surprising when one learns that both her father and grandfather were





artists. One then, it is 'in

Linda sees physical and

benefits to doing art, even if one considers oneself to be not very competent. (She is very competent!) It is, she says, totally absorbing and relaxing. She herself would always choose to spend time doing art - painting and drawing - even if it were not linked to the U3A. But, of course, an added bonus of Art with the U3A is the social interaction within the group.

might say, her genes'.

there are psychological

Linda's strong belief in the benefits of art has also led her to volunteer with the Artability project. This is a voluntary group for adults with a disability, or any health need. It provides an opportunity for them to learn or re-learn art skills in a safe environment. The artists and their carers come to the Medway Centre once a fortnight, where they are provided with basic art materials and helped with drawing and painting.

New members are always welcome in the BU3A Art Group. See the Gazette's centre pages for Linda's details.

Marie Howes

Thank you very much, Marie, for this lovely article, the first of several, I hope.

Incidentally, Mrs Fussey was one of my son's favourite teachers. He just emailed: "She was great. Lots of fun." Ed



A bit of a handicap

An avid golfer can't bear the idea of not playing when he's dead, so he goes to a spiritualist to try to find out if there's golf in Heaven. The spiritualist does his thing then says: "I have good news and bad news."

"What's the good news?" asks the golfer.

"Heaven has a golf course, it's beautiful, with 36 holes, 24-hour access and a magnificent clubhouse." "Wow," says the golfer, "and the bad news?" "You're booked in for a game next Thursday."

New Ideas? Or Status Quo?

When people move into the Bakewell area who have been members of U3As in other parts of the country, and then join BU3A, they always bring with them knowledge of other ways of doing things. That's not to say that our ways are wrong or that their (previous) ways are better, but it does indicate that there are other ways of doing things. And it may be to our advantage to, at least, consider some of the ideas which members bring from elsewhere.



For instance, most other U3As have much more regular general meetings/get togethers than we do. A lot have a monthly (and even weekly get-together of some kind. When Anne Peller did her survey a few years ago, there was some support for members being able to

get together more often. We have our quarterly Meg Laird, and the one-offs of our Charity Coffee Morning and Christmas Meal.

Of course, any move towards meeting more often automatically entails more effort and organising for someone/s. And we'd need to decide what the point of more meetings would be - just for a chat and coffee? For hearing more talks? Could members talk about their experiences/holidays/interests/hobbies/past profession? Could group leaders give insight into the groups they lead? But it would all need organising. So when members who have experience of U3A elsewhere tell us about monthly meetings, we do wonder, "Who does the organising? The planning? Possibly, the shopping?"



What does everyone think? Is there mileage in, at least, considering it? If the answer's even a tentative "yes," then give Anne Peller a call, 813591, with any ideas and comments you have. Or perhaps we're happy with the way we are?

(Wilmslow and How, Hampshire are pictured)



Walking Programme February - May 2024

All Walkers: please read -

If you don't receive an email before the walk, or you are unsure whether it will be suitable

for you, please contact the walk organiser for details. It is vital to get agreement before bringing a dog. You need to tell the walk leader if you intend to walk, and if you change your mind.

MONDAY WALK

Week 2 – Monday. A walk of 4 to 5 miles, occasional ascents and a few stiles, but much topical interest and variety.

Organiser: John Anderson

01629 734531

jandganderson@btinternet.com



Dates: Mondays -
12 February,
11 March,
April no walk,
13 May



Details of our Group Activities - February 2024

Please refer to Group web pages for more information, www.u3asites.org.uk/bakewell

Subject	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Art	Linda Fussey	01629 636793	2 nd Thursday	2 - 4 pm	Youlgrave Reading Room
Birding Short Walks	Jane Burgess	07954 588053	1 st Tuesday	Am	birding@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Bowling	Mary Creswell	01629 810134	Tues & Thurs April - Sept	10 - 12 noon	Bakewell Bowling Club
Book group	Jane Kayley- Burgess	01954 588053	2 nd Tuesday	2 - 4 pm	Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell
Bridge	Trish Simmonds	01629 814533	Every Thursday	1.30 - 4.30 pm	Medway Centre
Cooking by Men	Alan Goodall	07714 066785	2 nd Tuesday	5.30 - 7.30 pm	Lady Manners School cooking.by.men@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Craft	Gill Roberts	01629 813414	2 nd Wednesday	2 - 4 pm	Wye Bank, Bakewell Phone the Co-ordinator
Gardens & Houses	Sheila Sidebottom Vivien Stephenson	01629 814842 01629 813643	Various Tuesday visits	Varies	Contact Co-ordinators
History					
Luncheon Club	Anne Peller	01629 813591	1st Wednesday	Need you ask?	Various restaurants

Details of our Group Activities, Page 2 - February 2024

Subject	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Out and About	01629 732810	01629 813414	01629 636477	01629 813591	You tell us - where?
Philosophy	Sam Lewis	01629 640352	2 nd Wednesday	10.00 - 12 noon	Phone the Co-ordinator
Photography	Neil Sharples Allen Flatman	07954241294 01629 812950	1 st Friday	10.00 - 12 noon	Bakewell Parish Church
Poetry	Anne Gould	01629 810038	2 nd Tuesday	2.00 pm	3 Brookside, Bakewell
Keep using your French	Liz Gelanos		4 th Monday	2.30 - 4.30 pm	french@bakewellu3a.Org.uk
Real Latin 1	Shelagh Gregory	01433 670026	Alternate Mondays	10.30 - 12.30 pm	Phone the Co-ordinator
Real Latin 2	Shelagh Gregory	01433 670026	Alternate Fridays	10.30 - 12.30 pm	Phone the Co-ordinator
Scrabble	Anne Peller	01629 813591	4 th Wednesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Phone the Co-ordinator
Social team and	Meg Laird team	Combined	01629 813591	01629 636477	01433 639713
Spanish	Jayne Northcott	01629 636458	Monday am, every two weeks	10.00 - 12 noon	Depends on numbers, phone for details
Theatre	Jan Chappell Diana MacBain	01629 812960 01298 873503	1 st Friday	3.15 pm	Medway Centre
Walking	Jane Burgess	07954 588053	See programme in the Gazette	Email: walking@bakewellu3a.org.uk	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young	01629 814796	3 rd Wednesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Phone co-ordinator

LONGER WALKS Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Week 1 - Wednesday 7 to 8 miles A moderately paced walk over a variety of terrains. Picnic all year round, unless very inclement

Organiser: Neil Sharples neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk 07954 241294



Dates: Wednesdays - 7 February, 6 March, 3 April, 1 May

Week 2 - Thursday 7 to 8 miles, at a moderate pace. Picnic all year round.

Organiser: George Wolfe
geowolfel@gmail.com 01433 631308

Dates: Thursdays 15 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May

Week 3 - Friday 5 to 6 miles at a moderate pace. Pub or café lunch

Organiser: Martin Pape
01629 820265



empapecromford@gmail.com

Dates: Fridays 23 February, 22 March, 19 April, 17 May

Week 4 - Wednesday 7 to 8 miles, a moderately paced walk over a variety of terrains. Picnic all year round, unless very inclement

Organiser:
Neil Sharples
neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk 07954 241294

Dates: Wednesdays
28 February,
27 March,
24 April,
22 May





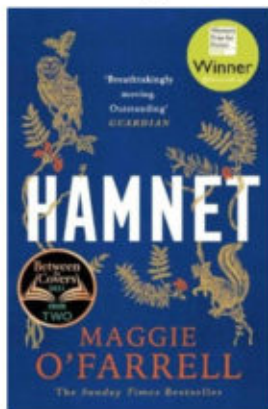
We Read Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*

In December, the book group read *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. It is a fictional account of the family of William Shakespeare and, in particular, the death of his son Hamnet. Shakespeare had three children, Suzanne and twins Hamnet and Judith. Judith was very tiny at birth and rather frail so it was a shock when, following an illness referred to as pestilence, Judith survived and Hamnet did not. The author describes movingly the effect of his death on the family.

William, himself, is not the central figure of the book but there are vivid descriptions of his rise from a rather aimless youth in Stratford to a hugely successful playwright in London, moving in all sections of society. The London of his day, with its poverty, disease and pollution, is graphically described.

I think we all enjoyed this book, and the lunch at the *Woodyard*, which helped to ward off the January blues.

Pam Walker



His lips are sealed. One Sunday morning a vicar

decides to bunk off to play golf. He leaves a note on the church door saying he's too ill to read the Service, then sneaks off to the golf course. God and St Peter are watching from above. "I hope you're going to punish him," says St Peter.

God replies, "Watch this." The vicar tees off and his first ball ricochets off three trees, skips across a pond, bounces off a boulder, loops the loop, and drops neatly into the hole. "I thought you were going to punish him." "I have," replies God, "who's he going to tell?"



So, what has Mr Bates been up to lately?

Well, for one thing, he's written a letter to Private Eye. Many Gazette readers may consider Private Eye to

be rather political, even left-wing. Anyone who watches Ian Hislop (the editor of Private Eye) on "Have I got News for You" can be in no doubt where his and its sympathies lie, and I do try very hard not to allow any politics to leak into the Gazette. But on this occasion, I feel it's justified.

As a Private Eye reader, I've been aware of and angered by the Post Office Horizon scandal for many years, and also from listening to Radio 4 programmes about this issue. After the ITV drama recently, very few of us can now be unaware of it. This is what Mr Bates wrote to Private Eye last week:

Eye Told You So

"I don't know if *the Eye* is going to be doing something about all of this in the next edition (19 Jan), but can I be bold and suggest a heading, "*Eye told you so,*" because you have been covering it for many years and the support of *the Eye* has been greatly appreciated - so on behalf of the victims' group and myself: thank you all!"

Message from Alan Bates to the Eye last week.

Twelve years ago, in September 2011, Private Eye first reported on the failing Horizon IT system and the prosecutions of Jo Hamilton and Seema Misra, and has consistently reported on the issue over the years - hence Mr Bates' thank you letter.

 **PRIVATE EYE**

Why Worry?

There are only two things to worry about.
Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, then there is nothing to worry about.

But if you are sick, there are two things to worry about.

Either you will get well, or you will die.

If you get well, there is nothing to worry about.

If you die there are only two things to worry about.

Either you will go to Heaven or Hell.

If you go to Heaven, there is nothing to worry about.

But if you go to Hell, you'll be so damn busy shaking hands with friends,

You won't have time to worry.

Thanks to Jen Coffey for this cheerful little number. Ed

HOME SWEET HOME

Oh, we had such a lovely Christmas. This year we were with Daughter No 1 (Gaby) and Daughter No 2 (Sophie), and family were there too, so that made ten of us, plus two dogs. The teenagers all behaved really well – and so did the adults!



There was copious excellent food and drink. Unlike last year, which we all spent with Sophie, and Geoff spent Christmas Day and Boxing Day in A&E, this year there were no medical



emergencies, nothing went wrong at all, in fact. Each day dawned clear and dry so we had three days of long dog walks – and every night I slept like the proverbial log. However, although we have the luxury of a bedroom and en-suite to ourselves at Gaby's, the spare bed is

considerably smaller and less comfortable than we are used to, and is under a steeply sloping ceiling up in the eaves, which means that when you get out of bed you do so very carefully, so as not to crack your head on the ceiling.

So, the day came to return home – packing up, making sure we left nothing behind (as it happened, only Dearly Beloved's walking stick and glasses). Then one last, long dog walk, followed by lunch, and this time a rather tedious, tiring journey home, in pouring rain, with lots of water on the roads and heavy traffic, eventually reaching home in the dark. Being the sole driver these days, I was exhausted when we arrived home.

Then of course it's unpacking the car, thanking our kindly neighbour for feeding the cats, then lighting the fire, putting everything back where it belongs and unpacking the bags. Well the Dearly Beloved's idea of unpacking is simple – empty everything out into the dirty washing drawer – job done! I was just too tired to do anything except find my PJs and wash bag, quickly fix something to eat and flop in front of the fire.



Early bed seemed a very good idea, since everything else could wait till tomorrow – and oh, the delicious thought of sinking into our king size, uber-comfortable bed,

and drifting off to sleep. Just popped into the kitchen to fill a couple of comforting hot water bottles and **CRASH!!** A stray bag handle on the back of the door had knocked a large, full bottle of Baileys onto the floor smashing it into smithereens – fragments of glass inextricably mixed with sticky, unctuous Baileys Irish Cream, oozing across the floor.

Just seconds away from my beloved bed and there was no way I could leave the mess until the morning, because of the cats. I could have wept – well truth be told, I did. I'd bought the wretched bottle planning to take it with us to Gaby's; I don't like it, but for the girls it's become part of the Christmas tradition - but of course I had forgotten to take it. It took me *AGES* to clear up, very carefully, then mop the floor and finally Hoover it, to be sure I had those last little fragments.



Like I said, Home Sweet Home!

Judy Hinsliff

Remembering snow by Brian Patten

I did not sleep last night.
The falling snow was beautiful
and white.
I dressed, sneaked down the stairs
And opened wide the door.
I had not seen such snow before.
Our grubby little street had gone;
The world was brand-new, and
everywhere
There was a pureness in the air.
I felt such peace. Watching every
flake
I felt more and more awake.
I thought I'd learned all there was
to know
About the trillion million different
kinds
Of swirling frosty falling flakes of
snow.
But that was not so.
I had not known how vividly it lit
The world with such a peaceful
glow.
Upstairs my mother slept.
I could not drag myself away
from that sight
To call her down and have her
share
That mute miracle of snow.
It seemed to fall for me alone.
How beautiful our grubby little
street had grown!



IT'S ALL SNOW

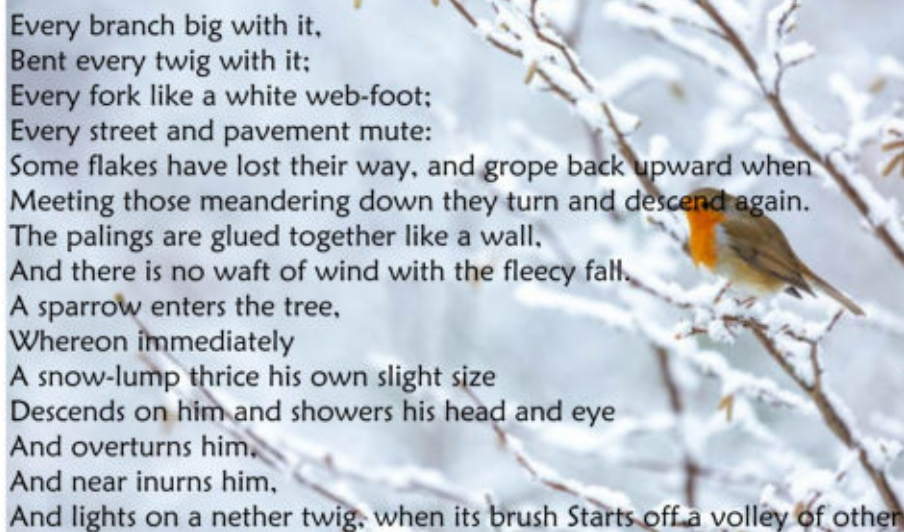
Fluffy flat flakes
Slightly slippery sleet
Fabulous furious flurries
Blowing blustering blizzard.
That's the way it goes.
Call it what you will,
it's all snow.

By Denise Rodgers



**Poetry Corner is a bit
chilly this month, but
lovely poems for us to
shiver over. Thanks to
Anne, Ann and Sheila
for their selections.**

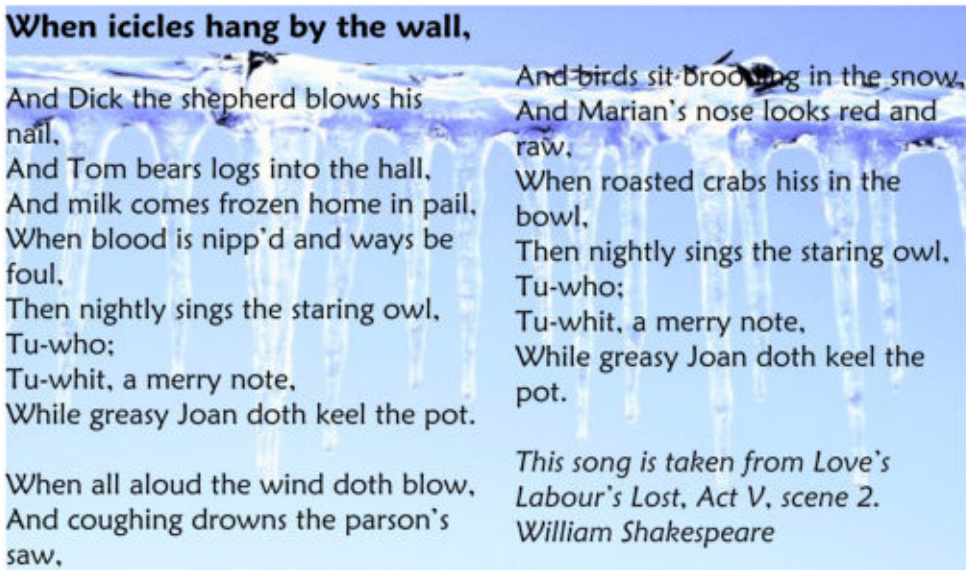
Snow in the Suburbs by Thomas Hardy



Every branch big with it,
Bent every twig with it;
Every fork like a white web-foot;
Every street and pavement mute:
Some flakes have lost their way, and grope back upward when
Meeting those meandering down they turn and descend again.
The palings are glued together like a wall,
And there is no waft of wind with the fleecy fall.
A sparrow enters the tree,
Whereon immediately
A snow-lump thrice his own slight size
Descends on him and showers his head and eye
And overturns him,
And near inurns him,
And lights on a nether twig, when its brush Starts off a volley of other
lodging lumps with a rush.
The steps are a blanched slope,
Up which, with feeble hope,
A black cat comes, wide-eyed and thin;
And we take him in.

(A robin, not a sparrow. Ed)

When icicles hang by the wall,



And Dick the shepherd blows his
nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd and ways be
foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's
saw,

And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and
raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the
bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the
pot.

*This song is taken from Love's
Labour's Lost, Act V, scene 2.
William Shakespeare*

Pinewood and Newport Pagnall

What's the Connection?

Pinewood Studios came into being after the estate of Heatherden Hall was bought by Charles Boot. He joined with J Arthur Rank to build "the best studios in the world". They named it "Pinewood", mirroring "Hollywood," after the huge pine trees in the gardens. By the end of the 1930s, Pinewood was producing more films than any other studio in the world.

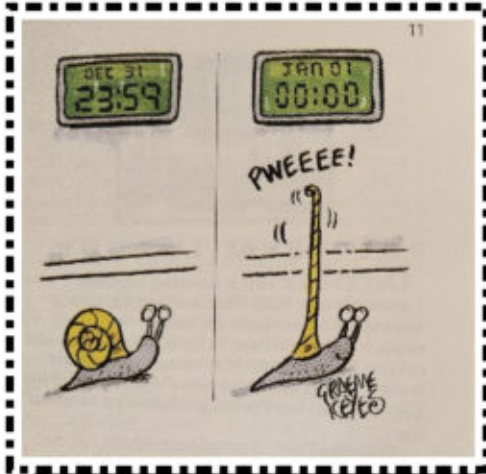


The 007 sound stage, at Pinewood, where the Bond films are made is also the biggest in the world - which leads us on to Newport Pagnall.

Here, Aston Martin, a small specialist company, was beavering away, managing to produce, hand made, six cars per week, and was

initially most reluctant to become involved in film-making. Cubby Broccoli wanted a car which epitomised English class, discreetly powerful, unruffled, hand-made, rare and refined, for James Bond to drive in "Goldfinger" (1964). He considered the DB4 Aston Martin to be perfect but at first the car producer refused to cooperate. Somewhat reluctantly, they agreed to lend Broccoli two DB5s, and the rest, as they say, is history. After "Goldfinger" the Aston Martin DB5 (BMT216A) became the best-know and most sought-after car in the world.

The partnership between Bond and Aston Martin actually began back in the original novels by Ian Fleming. A renowned automotive connoisseur, Fleming gave the Aston Martin DB Mark III a glowing appraisal in the "Goldfinger" novel. Bond was offered the Aston Martin or a Jaguar 3.4. He chose the DB III. *(Continued opposite)*



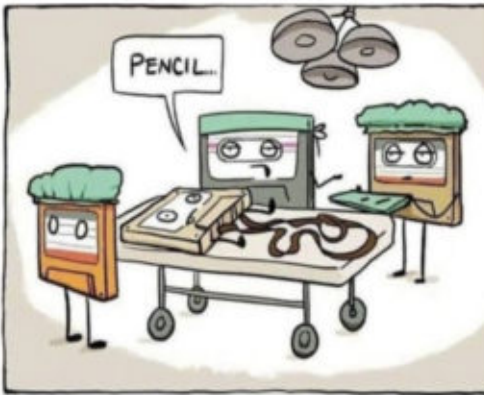
Courtesy of Private Eye

New neighbours?

Don't forget to keep an eye open for new people moving in, who might be interested in joining our BU3A. If you let me know of new residents, I'll send them a Gazette with an explanatory note:

01629 636477, Glenys Moore

*I think I'll leave this in as a regular reminder. I've just received membership forms from a couple who were sent a Gazette about a month ago. So it works! **Ed***



The famous vehicle has gone on to star in no fewer than eight Bond films, including a starring role in 2012's "Skyfall," and the last time in "No time to die" in 2020.

Notes from my garden

January 2024



I don't like winter with its dark, damp short days, so when the nights begin to draw in my thoughts turn to planting bulbs. I bought nearly a hundred tulips in reds, yellow, orange and mixed hot colours. I dug out a bed full of bad weeds and planted most of them, throwing a bag of leaf mould over it. Sadly, my cat thinks I have made a giant earth box! I await results in April.



I had a failure with my bulbs last Spring. I planted daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and iris in pots. I followed advice and put lots of grit in the pots but the constant rain repeatedly flooded them leaving standing water. The result, as expected, was that they rotted in the pots. This year I have tried to do better and moved the pots to under garden benches and sheltered spots.

I have just brought in three pots of hyacinths to flower in succession.



They look good so far. I had discussion with a friend about how to plant hyacinths: bury them or plant them shallow with their tips showing, as I have always done. So, I asked Google and the answer was plant deep for garden flowering, tips showing for indoors.



I am always glad when Christmas and New Year are over and the days begin to get a little longer. I go out into my garden each

day and hunt for signs of Spring. I love the winter flowering shrubs, I have Jasmine, two types of Vibernam, winter Honeysuckle and a Mahonia in bloom. More exiting, I have a bank of daffodils which began appearing before New Year, as did a patch of winter cyclamen, which spreads each year with cheerful purple, pink and white flowers. The snowdrops appeared in early January



but were a bit slow to show their bells when the cold patch arrived. I have snowdrops and primroses on a south facing bank and the primroses are in bloom. All of these early flowers remind me that soon it will be nice enough to be out in the garden planting again.

The job I haven't been able to avoid is repairing storm damage. The first named storm brought down a huge old climbing rose which was attached to a trellis, taking some of the trellis with it. The rose had become unruly and I am afraid I cut it right back to a few young stems. I am sure it will recover but may take time. The second big storm took down a metal garden arch which had been leaning over with the weight of a pretty apricot rose, and some of the other side of the trellis. Again, I filled my garden bin with a drastic cut back of the rose. I have ordered a new arch which was surprisingly cheap and will wait to see if it's strong enough. I plan to stake the rose as well and am wondering whether I should bury the arch legs in rapid setting concrete.

Increasingly, jobs get heavier and harder and I would love to find a garden-handyman, someone to mow lawns and do bigger jobs. Gardeners' World always makes it seem so easy!

Mrs Blossom



GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART GROUP WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMME

**All meetings are held in the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Row, Bakewell.
2.30 pm for a cuppa and chat, with a 3.00 pm start.
£3 entry covers the cost of the speaker.**

Tuesday 20th February

Angela Bird has arranged for Dr Andrew Ward to talk to us about those troublesome shady areas in the garden. His talk is entitled "Woodland Gems". Thank you Angela.



Meynell Langley Gardens, Nursery and Tearooms, Kirk Langley, near Ashbourne. Thursday, 2 May 2024

Car share (42 min drive) visit to Meynell Langley Nurseries Tour of the gardens and the Nursery at work. Have been told that Meynell is a "real" nursery, NOT a Garden Centre and that the Tea Room is excellent!!

PLEASE contact me if you are interested. s.sidebottom2017@gmail.com.
01629 814842.



(It certainly looks good. Ed)

And thanks to Sheila for all this information



**Middleton Hall and Gardens. Wednesday, 5 June.
Visit organised by Helen Jagger. Thank you Helen.
Coach from Bakewell Methodist Church 8.30 am.**

Journey time around 1 hr 40 mins.

**Cost is £37 which includes
coach/driver's tip/entry/tour and
welcome tea and cake.**



Middleton Hall is a unique Grade II listed manor house set in 42 acres of peaceful countryside. There is an original Georgian walled garden with heated walls, orchard, flower meadow and nature walk. There is also a small retail area and, of course, a very necessary coffee shop. Visitors are also welcome to picnic.

If you are interested in this visit PLEASE

contact he-jagger@yahoo.co.uk,
07805623351, or
s.sidebottom2017@gmail.com,
01629 814842

Expressing your interest helps us to decide whether this proposed visit is viable. You are not booking!

Pru Kirby is organising a visit to **Norwell Nurseries and Gardens**, owned by Dr Ward in July, date yet to be finalised. **Sheila Sidebottom**



Cheddar-crusted cod with layered potatoes and leeks

Prep time 15 minutes, Cook time 1 hour 15 minutes. Serves 4

Taken from the Telegraph Magazine which says: "This is luxurious despite being a one-pot dish. It's absolutely good enough to cook for friends on a Saturday night."

Ingredients:

1 kg potatoes, peeled
2 large leeks, coarse outer leaves and green ends removed, trimmed and very finely sliced
1 large garlic clove very finely sliced
525 ml double cream
125 ml full-fat milk



For the fish and crust

60 g fresh white breadcrumbs
1.5 tbsp finely chopped parsley
60 g mature cheddar, finely grated
20 g Parmesan, grated
20 g butter, melted
4 thick pieces of cod fillet, about 175 g each (getting thick pieces is very important)
Wedges of lemon to serve

Method:

Heat the oven to 170 C or 160 C fan, Gas mark 3. Using a mandolin, slice the potatoes very finely, almost wafer thin. As you do this, put them in a round, shallow flameproof casserole – 30 cm in diameter, and layer them with the leeks, garlic and some seasoning as you go.

Pour the cream and milk over the vegetables and set the pan over a medium heat. Bring the contents of the dish to the boil, but don't let

the liquid bubble up over the sides. Turn the heat down and cook over a medium heat for 10 minutes. This just helps soften the potatoes.

Put the dish in the oven and cook for 30 - 35 minutes. The liquid will reduce quite a bit and the potatoes will become tender. Mix the breadcrumbs, parsley, cheeses, melted butter and some seasoning together. Take the dish out of the oven. Turn the heat up to 190C or 180C fan/Gas mark 5 and wait until the oven reaches the new temperature.

Put the pieces of fish on top of the potatoes, divide the breadcrumb mixture between them – patting the crust down on top of the fish with a spoon – and return the dish to the oven.

Bake until the fish is cooked through, about 15 - 16

minutes. Check the flesh in the thickest part – it should be white, not glassy. The potatoes will be too hot to serve immediately, so leave the dish to cool for about 7 - 8 minutes – remember that the fish will continue to cook during this time. Squeeze some lemon over the top and serve from the dish in which it has been cooked. Offer lemon wedges on the side.

Thanks, as ever, to Irene Yarnell



Not so handy

A man goes into a hardware store and asks to buy a chainsaw. The shopkeeper sells him one that's guaranteed to fell even the biggest tree in under a minute. The man takes it home but comes back the next day to complain. "A minute, you told me," he yells. "I started cutting down a tree yesterday lunchtime and by six in the evening, I'd hardly made an impression on the trunk." The shopkeeper apologises. "I'm so sorry, sir, perhaps the engine's air-to-fuel ratio is out of adjustment. I'll just check." So saying, he pulls the starter cord and the chainsaw roars into life. "My God," cries the startled man, "what's that noise!"





It's
well on
its way
now

It was right back in May 2020 that Gill Roberts, Craft Group coordinator, began to introduce the idea of a U3A Bakewell Timeline Tapestry to members of the Craft Group, and also to BU3A generally. There were 33 pieces in all, many of them now completed, and awaiting framing. And in August 2023 we had the very good news that the Rev Robert Parker had generously agreed to fund the framing.

So, now some of the completed tapestries are about to be delivered to a specialist framer

For some members these tapestries have been an enjoyable "labour of love", for others, less so, but worked on with commitment, nevertheless. When we meet, we stitchers are so full of admiration for each other's work, which is rather nice. We're looking forward, at some stage, to amazing you all with our skills, when the timeline goes on display. "Wow," will be the acceptable, even obligatory, reaction from you all.



A recent Craft Group meeting

Bakewell Area U3A - Registered Charity No 1111699

YOUR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The members of the committee of the Bakewell Area U3A are ex-officio the Trustees of this Bakewell U3A Trust No 1111699. The Trustees are answerable and accountable for the finances, activities and publications of the Trust.

There is a link to our data protection policy on the members' page of the BU3A website.

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Vice Chairman

Vacant

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Committee Members

Anne Peller	01629 813591	Sheila Sidebottom	01629 814842
Pam Walker	07786 245406	Jonathan Wicksteed	07799 897237

There are vacancies for committee and co-opted members. Please contact the Secretary if you would like more information.

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/bakewell

Bakewell U3A warmly welcomes all new members. Please contact the Membership Secretary for more information. The Membership form can be downloaded from our website. Forms are also held at the Library, the Medway Centre and the Information Centre.

Completed membership forms should be sent to G Moore, Green Peace, Stoneyside, Youlgrave, Derbyshire DE45 1WH

Helping you to find your way around

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