

# The GAZETTE



**Issue No 88      November 2023**

---

## When is a Coffee Morning not a Coffee Morning?



**When it's in the afternoon, of course!** Many of you will know all about our annual charity gathering at Baslow Village Hall, **in the morning**. Well, this time, we can't have the morning, so we've settled for the afternoon, **Monday, 22 January, 2.00 - 4.00 pm**, instead. Our thinking was that the parking is so convenient, it's a nice room, and we're all used to our Coffee Whatever it is being there.

This time we're supporting our Air Ambulance service for Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Bakewell shop manager will join us.

The format for the event is tried and tested - lots of you bring lots of items for us to sell, and lots of you buy lots of items, too. Simple, and, hopefully, we collect in lots of cash for Air Ambulance. And you can drink coffee, munch biscuits, and chat with friends and acquaintance, to your heart's content.

So, please, start putting items aside to **BRING**, and book the date in your new diary or calendar - **Monday, 22 January, 2 - 4 pm**, to **BUY**. If you can't make it, why not give items to someone else to bring?



## Introducing our Chairman (and his wife, Iris)

### **DO WE HAVE LIFT-OFF?**

The last few months have been a bit of a whirlwind. I was approached to be your chair in May and elected at the AGM in July. Since then the committee has met twice. Additionally, I have had many informal meetings, made scores of phone calls and exchanged hundreds of emails with very committed and talented Bakewell u3a members.



Of course, I was a little apprehensive. Leading Bakewell u3a was not on my radar. So, why give up a relatively settled and manageable life for something unknown? Several reasons: without wishing to tempt fate, serving Bakewell u3a is one small way of expressing gratitude for a very fortunate life; secondly - I find it tricky to say “No!” It is even trickier to say “no” when the cause is so worthy.

Why is Bu3a a worthy cause? This needed expressing in words, so the editor and I put our minds to the task and came up with:

*“Bakewell u3a provides retired and partly retired people with the opportunity to participate in shared activities with other, like-minded people, enjoying their company whilst developing personal contacts, skills and knowledge.”*

Now that is a worthy cause!  
Describing the raison d'être of an enterprise in few words is based on the marketing notion of a “lift speech”, the idea being that in the time it takes a lift to rise a couple of floors you should be able to



convince someone of the true essence of an enterprise. My challenge: have a go at composing your own “lift speech” for Bu3a, with publication in The Gazette!

In practice, Bu3a provides many members with a focused social life: there are lively and progressive groups led by talented and committed group leaders and, under the “Meg Laird” umbrella, there exists an established provision of popular events well reflected in The Gazette. But our prime asset is the friendship and conviviality which is developed through shared, purposeful activities.

However, Bakewell u3a is a worthy cause with some challenges. Over the years membership has steadily declined and we are not as well known in our local communities as we could be. Some groups are struggling to survive and volunteers willing to accept leadership responsibilities are difficult to come by. Moreover, we are too dependent upon a small number of people. It can't be right that one person is doing two or even three voluntary jobs within the one organisation.

What is promising is a willingness to address these matters, whilst retaining our core strengths. An embryonic marketing group is taking shape (see Page 6) and new groups are contemplated as we try to attract a younger generation of members to ensure our continuity. The committee has agreed to explore the option to adopt “Beacon”, the u3a system which aims to help manage membership and finance, and we are planning to revitalise our web site (see Pages 12 and 13)).

Progress in these areas will make for an optimistic future and an even more positive story to tell people we meet in the lift.

**Peter Holt**  
**November 2023**





# Editor's Ponderings

Do you like my heading? A new aspect of the dtp programme I use, another tip from my son. I'll try not to use it TOO often, but it does appeal. It's always good to learn.

And how splendid to have a Chairman again. Peter's already put lots of time and effort into getting to know our BU3A ways, finding out how we operate and do things - not an easy task. He's chaired two very positive committee meetings already, and, with actions agreed, and members taking on new roles, things are looking positive for the future. (For more on two of these actions, read Page 6 and Pages 12 and 13.)

I was glad to read that Mrs Blossom also has difficulty managing huge plants like Phlox and Astrantia. Monty Don DOES offer useful tips but he infuriates me by making some jobs seem SO easy - splitting massive plants into four or five smaller pieces with, apparently, little effort.

Digging up and splitting one plant takes me all morning, and an awful lot of sweat and swearing, particularly when I can hardly lift them.

And finally, Gazettes grow like Topsy, they aren't "designed". I've just finished proofreading this one and have to admit that this issue has grown into a volunteering one - Christmas Trees, bands, U3A publicity, choosing theatre trips, Home Start, U3A website entries, DDCVS AGM, Tools for Self Reliance. No shortage of things for us to do, then!

***And I decided I wanted to share my ponderings with what I consider to be the best joke in this issue. Ed***



*"Spider in the shower. Spider in the shower. Drama, drama, drama."*



## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Doesn't it come round quickly - paying BU3A subs?

Your committee has decided on a small increase, **up from £16 to £17**. It will be REALLY HELPFUL if you now make a determined effort to deal with paying

your subs, soon, preferably by BACS online transfer (details below) and definitely by the time of the Coffee Afternoon on Monday, 22 January, if you want to pay by cheque. You can bring it along, payable to Bakewell Area U3A, in an envelope with your name on. So - a bit more detail:

**Method 1** - Make a payment by BACS online transfer, bank details below, and include your name as the reference.

Send an email confirming your payment to

Neil Sharples, Treasurer, [neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk), **and to**

Phil Clarke, Database Manager, [bakewellu3a@outlook.com](mailto:bakewellu3a@outlook.com)

**Method 2** - Send a cheque, payable to Bakewell Area U3A to Glenys Moore, Green Peace, Stoneyside, Youlgrave, Derbyshire DE45 1WH, **or, at the latest,**

bring a cheque in a named envelope to the Coffee Afternoon, Monday, 22 January.

Once you've paid, turn to the front page, bottom right, and draw a funny face in the oval (or just a tick) - confirmation to yourself that you've paid. We had a number of members this year who forgot to pay their subs and didn't realise, and this caused a few headaches in our admin.

**Bakewell Area U3A      60-01-33      12067954**

**Please use your name as the reference**

PS - If you don't intend to renew your membership, please let Phil Clarke know.

## **COULD YOU BE THAT SPECIAL PERSON WE'RE LOOKING FOR?**

Most of us in Bakewell U3A will recognise that we are facing changing times, with a reduction in our number - and perhaps vitality - of some members, and a diminished suite of viable and compelling groups.

We've also recognised that society around us has changed since all those years ago when Bakewell U3A was first, and so very successfully, started. But in this changing society the need for the life enhancing principles embodied in what we do becomes greater, rather than less.

Reflecting society and demographic changes, U3A groups elsewhere have adopted Kite Flying, Line Dancing, ukulele playing, Barbershop Singing, Pickleball and some even Belly Dancing, but all reflect what they felt was needed locally, and was missing.

Already some of our members are planning what WE might do!

But we'd like to properly establish what's out there, what people might be attracted to, and how we get their attention. Especially, do we need to know how many! We need a special person to join our small Marketing Team, and really help us.



- Someone who groans when told "We've always done it that way".
- Someone who can look at things with an analytical eye, and enjoys being quite nosey.
- Someone who enjoys doing something different and being really creative.
- Someone who can observe what's out there and describe it.
- And someone who likes a good laugh with a happy team.  
(This someone is technically called a Market Analyst).

If you are that someone, or know someone who is, and can persuade them to get in touch, please phone **John Anderson on 07896 778221**.

(How about a group meeting to practise in *YOUR* back garden? **Ed**)

# Our Christmas Get-together Lunch

Monday, 4 December 2023  
at the Devonshire Arms, Beeley



Well -  
it's full steam ahead for 4<sup>th</sup>  
December. Diners have booked,  
and can now look forward to a  
very pleasant occasion. A big  
thank you to Jean Sutton and  
Anne Peller for putting a lot  
of thought and effort into  
organising our Christmas  
Meal. And we get crackers.

**MLT**

**Another Meg Laird gathering:  
Tuesday, 30 January 2024**

**\*\*And this time it's at the Friends' Meeting House\*\*  
*Sounds of the Didgeridoo***

Gary Burdett, who has travelled extensively  
in Australia, will talk about the history of the  
Aboriginal people, the history of this  
instrument, and will play it for us, too.

Usual time, 2.00 for 2.15 pm start. Price £3.  
Bring your friends, non-members welcome,  
enjoy an unusual and interesting talk - and  
there's cake afterwards.



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

**MLT**

## **Christmas and all that jazz**

So this is our *extra Meg Laird* gathering to get us in the mood with a bit of pre-Christmas jollity. A local group of retired musicians, **The 3 Johns**, are going to play for us - christmasy music which they're very happy for us to sing and dance along to. So do come and join the fun. Usual price, £3, bring your friends, including non-members.



**Thursday, 14 December, 2.00 for 2.15 pm  
at the Medway Centre**



**Mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee provided, and bring anything else you might fancy.**

The knights are drawing in!



I envy kangaroos. The baby crawls out of the womb when it's about two inches long, gets into the pouch, and starts to grow. I'd have a baby if it would mature in my handbag.

**Rita Rudner**

I think my husband's having an affair with his secretary. I found lipstick on his shirt collar, covered over with Tippex.

**Wendy Liebman**



## A lucky break

A young man is trying out his new sports car on a quiet country lane. There's no traffic about so he risks taking it up to 90 mph. He turns a corner and sees two farmers standing in the middle of the road chatting. He wrenches on the steering wheel, the car shoots up an embankment, flies into the air and crashes in the middle of the adjacent field. The farmers stare in shock and one says to the other, "That was lucky. I reckon



we got out of that field in the nick o' time."

## 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.



When you live by yourself, it's as if, by magic, all your annoying habits disappear.

**Merrill Markoe**



## "Good to Know" telephone Groups:

How to have a telephone chat in your own home on an interesting topic, with minimum effort.

How to get involved:

- Email [telephone.services@independentage.org](mailto:telephone.services@independentage.org)
- Ring the free helpline 0800 319 6789

***This service was featured in the August Gazette, Pages 10/11. Did anyone try this service out? If so, do let me know how you got on, and what you thought of it - we can report back in a future Gazette, so that other members can benefit.***

***01629 636477, email.the.gazette@gmail.com. Ed***



## BAKEWELL U3A WALKING GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Derwentwater Arms, Calver

Friday, 15 December  
(12 for 12.30 pm)

Numbers are limited to 36.

Menu opposite - 2 courses for £24, or 3 for £30, (includes tea, coffee & mince pie)

Please send your booking, choices (and any dietary requirements) and payment by 10th November, to Ann Topham, address below.

There is a large car park at the front and a level entrance at the rear but with only 6 spaces- so could be used as a 'drop-off' point.

### **Payment by bank transfer or cheque -**

Online to BAKEWELL U3A WALKING GROUP

A/c no 51000458, sort code 60-01-33 **with your name as a reference, please.**

**or**

a cheque made out to BAKEWELL U3A WALKING GROUP  
and sent to - Mrs P A Topham, Beech House,  
11 Eversleigh Rise, Darley Bridge,



Matlock DE4 2JW.

Please email/send me your choices and how you have paid, to: - [tophamtowers@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tophamtowers@tiscali.co.uk). Phone 01629 733718/ 07464973387

***Ann Topham***



# Christmas MENU

## STARTERS

- Roasted Celeriac & Garlic Soup, Stilton Crouton (Vegan / G/F Available)
- Game Bird & Ham Hock Terrine, Spiced Pear Chutney & Toast (G/F Available)
- Hot Smoked Hake & Chive Pate, Cucumber Caviar & Oat Biscuit (G/F Available)
- Prawn, Avocado & Sun Dried Tomato Salad with Dill Dressing (G/F)

## MAIN DISHES

- Roast Breast of Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Chestnut Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Mash, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy (G/F Available)
- Pan Fried Seabass, Warm Panzanella Salad & Saffron Aioli (G/F)
- Ballantine of Pork Fillet, Black Pudding & Mushroom, Roasted Parmenter Potatoes, Greens & Gravy
- Chestnut and Wild Mushroom Roast, Winter Berry Jus, Sautéed Potatoes & Greens (Vegan)

## G

- Chocolate and Hazelnut Tart, Hazelnut Brittle & Chantilly Cream
- Marmalade Bread and Butter Pudding with Custard
- Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce
- Stuffed Christmas Apples (G/F - Vegan)

## TEA, COFFEE & MINCE PIE

2 COURSES £24

3 COURSES £30

AVAILABLE MONDAY 4TH -  
FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

## WE THOUGHT ALL MEMBERS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW . . .

*Andy Roberts, our Website Manager, has been considering ways to improve our BU3A Website and has been in touch with Group Co-ordinators/Leaders on this topic. Of course, it's not just up to the Leaders to do something, so we thought it might be a good idea for everyone to be thinking of ways of creating and improving the image of groups on the Website. **Below is what Leaders have received from Andy.** Do give some thought to how the groups you attend might be improved on the Website.*

**Hi all,** We have been discussing how we can attract more members to Bakewell U3A and one of the things we would like to do is communicate a bit more information through the group website.

### Photos

Probably the easiest way to do this would be to have a few photos for each group. We are given statistics which show that all the group web pages are visited quite a few times each month so this would have an immediate impact on people who visit these pages. The types of photos are up to you - for some creative groups (like art, photography etc) it could be things produced by the group; or it might be photos of a group event or visit (Theatre trip, garden visit, etc); or a picture of a group meeting (but make sure you have people's permission); or possibly promotional material for an event you have gone to.



A range of photos would be best in order to show the different types of things you do, or the range of abilities in creative activities.



You may like to look at the page for the Craft group where some of their work is shown - <https://u3asites.org.uk/bakewell/page/74768>

*(The Craft page does show that there are some limitations to how we can display the photos at the moment but there is going to be an upgrade to the website which will modernise it and give us a lot more options for*

displaying photos so it would be good to have the photos ready before that change happens.)

## Articles / Info on activities

It would also be good to have articles or information on what your group has done. The simplest way would be to have a list of activities or topics covered by the group recently. Even better would be a report of a recent trip or activities that members have done. (If these articles could be done fairly regularly, that would be perfect.)



Please do get back to me with anything you can contribute to the website, either done by you or delegated to a member of your group.

**Andy Roberts 07979707383**

## Well that was last year -

And now it's this year, and Bakewell Church is again asking groups to dress a tree for their Festival. Gill feels she really has run out of ideas now, and it's time for someone else's ideas to adorn the BU3A tree. So it would be good to hear from a group of members willing to take on this annual task. We do want to be represented at the Festival, so please discuss with friends, and get in touch to say "yes". Ring 01629 636477





*Our poetry corner choices are, I suppose, in the immortal words of Basil Fawlty, stating the ----- obvious.*

## **Fall, Leaves, Fall**

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.  
I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should  
grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Ushers in a drearier day.

***Emily Bronte***

### **Autumn Fires**

In the other gardens  
And all up in the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over,  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!

***Robert Louis Stevenson***



### **A touch of cold in the Autumn night**

I walked abroad,  
And saw the ruddy moon lean  
over a hedge  
Like a red-faced farmer.  
I did not stop to speak, but  
nodded,  
And round about were the wistful  
stars  
With white faces, like town  
children.



***T E Hulme***

## Autumn

I love the fitful gusts that shake  
The casement all the day  
And from the mossy elm tree takes  
The faded leaf away  
Twirling it by the window-pane  
With thousand others down the lane

I love to see the shaking twig  
Dance till the shut of eve  
The sparrow on the cottage rig  
Whose chirp would make believe  
That spring was just now flirting by



In summers  
lap with  
flowers to lie

I love to see  
the cottage  
smoke  
Curl upwards  
through the  
naked trees

The pigeons nestled round the coat  
On dull November days like these  
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing  
The mill sails on the heath a-going

The feather from the raven's breast  
Falls on the stubble lea  
The acorns near the old crow's nest  
Fall pattering down the tree  
The grunting pigs that wait for all  
Scramble and hurry where they fall

**John Clare**

## September Tomatoes

The whiskey stink of rot has  
settled  
in the garden, and a burst of fruit  
flies rises  
when I touch the dying tomato  
plants.

Still, the claws of tiny yellow  
blossoms  
flail in the air as I pull the vines up  
by the roots  
and toss them in the compost.

It feels cruel. Something in me isn't  
ready  
to let go of summer so easily. To  
destroy  
what I've carefully cultivated all  
these months.  
Those pale flowers might still have  
time to fruit.

My great-grand  
mother sang  
with the girls of  
her village  
as they pulled  
the flax. Songs  
so old  
and so tied to  
the season that the very sound  
seemed to turn the weather.



**Karina Borowicz**

*I'm sorry, I got a bit carried away with autumnal poetry. At least, this way, everyone might find one they like. Happy autumn. Ed*



## *An Enchanted April*

If you want to be charmed by a book, let it be this one. *The Enchanted April* is a 1922 novel by British writer, Elizabeth von Arnim, inspired by a month-long holiday on the Italian Riviera, probably the most widely read and lightest of her novels. She wrote and set the book in the 15th century Castello Brown. Critic Terence de Vere White credited "The Enchanted April" with making the Italian resort of Portofino fashionable.

The novel joins four dissimilar and very unhappy women on a month's shared sojourn at Castello Brown, where their unusual situation, the idyllic weather, the beautiful scenery, and their interactions very gradually work some sort of magic which brings about a deliciously happy ending for all.



Particularly instrumental in all of this is Lottie Wilkins, a gauche, down-trodden, socially awkward young woman, whose idea first brings about the trip, and whose intuition and sensitivity for her fellow residents at the castello leads to a very gradual softening of relationships between them, and general happiness for all.

A friend bought me the book for Christmas, years ago. It's been loaned out to Enid Cretney, Alisoun Cunningham, Ruth Miles and Anne Peller, all of whom approved wholeheartedly. Then the friend bought me the 1991 film, and Alisoun, Ruth, Anne and I enjoyed a screening together, followed by a very elegant afternoon tea, at Ruth's house. Book and dvd are available for loan to anyone interested. ***Glenys Moore***

*PS I've tried other of her novels; none comes anywhere near this one.*







## Walking Programme November - February 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 WALKS**

#### **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](mailto:jandganderson@btinternet.com)

Dates: Mondays - 13 November, 11 December, 8 January, 12 February.

**Week 4 - Monday.** Around 3 to 4 miles at a gentle pace but may include stiles and inclines. Picnic lunch in summer and cafe or pub lunch in winter.

**Organiser: Alison Stuart** 01629 812203 [alisongayford@gmail.com](mailto:alisongayford@gmail.com)

Dates: Mondays - 27 November, no December walk, 22 January, 26 February

## Details of our Group Activities - November 2023

Please refer to Group web pages for more information, [www.u3asites.org.uk/bakewell](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/bakewell)

Subject	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Art	Linda Fussey	01629 636793	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	2 - 4 pm	Youlgrave Reading Room
Birding Short Walks	Jane Burgess	07954 588053	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Am	<a href="mailto:janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk">janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Bowling	Mary Creswell	01629 810134	Tues & Thurs April - Sept	10 - 12 noon	Bakewell Bowling Club
Book group	Jane Kayley- Burgess	01954 588053	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	5.30 - 7.30 pm	Lady Manners School <a href="mailto:kenneth_goodall@sky.com">kenneth_goodall@sky.com</a>
Craft	Gill Roberts	01629 813414	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 - November 2023

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 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	10.00 - 12 noon	Phone the Co-ordinator
Photography	Neil Sharples Allen Flatman	07954241294 01629 812950	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	10.00 - 12 noon	Bakewell Parish Church
Poetry	Anne Gould	01629 810038	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	2.00 pm	3 Brookside, Bakewell
Keep using your French	Liz Gelanos	lizgelanos@gmail.com	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	2.30 - 4.30 pm	Email the Co-ordinator
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Friday	3.15 pm	Medway Centre
Walking	Jane Burgess	07954 588053	See programme in the Gazette	Email: <a href="mailto:janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk">janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young	01629 814796	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk) 07954 241294

**Dates:** Wednesdays 1 November, 6 December, 3 January, 7 February



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

**Organiser: George Wolfe**  
[geowolfel@gmail.com](mailto:geowolfel@gmail.com)  
01433 631308

**Dates:** Thursdays  
9 November,  
14 December,  
11 January,  
15 February



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

**Organiser: Martin Pape** 01629 820265 [empapecromford@gmail.com](mailto:empapecromford@gmail.com)

**Dates:** Fridays 17 November, 22 December, 19 January, 23 February

**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](mailto:neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk)  
07954 241294

**Dates:** Wednesdays

22 November,

27 December (unlikely)

24 January,

28 February



# Do we fancy a trip?



Yorkshire Sculpture Park, an hour and a half away, rolling hills, lakeside walks, magnificent trees, so much interesting “stuff” to see, inside the main building and galleries, and outside - what’s not to like? Well, a giant gherkin, for a start. It was well over 6 foot high, and green. Why, we asked?



On the other hand, there was a huge oval stone with a never-ending line carved into it. That could definitely have come home with me. And an

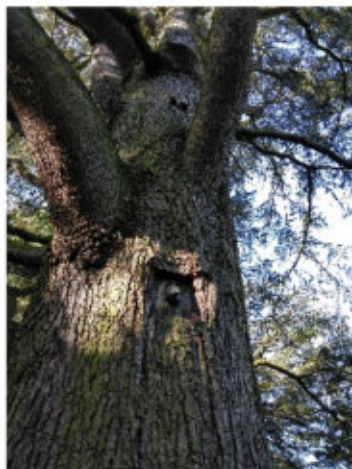
exhibit in the lower gallery (opposite) fascinated many of its viewers. It was one of 55 shown indoors, with 19 outside in the extensive grounds, by Erwin Wurm, one of Austria’s most prominent



artists. The programme tells us that: “his work disrupts perceptions of the familiar and sensible and, in a process that abounds with humour and experimentation, he frequently reimagines objects by giving them human characteristics”.

**Would members like a trip to YSP, perhaps in the Spring?**

*PS This tree was struck by lightning and they bolted it back together - wonderful.*





## BAKEWELL U3A THEATRE GROUP

Following a record-breaking 3 year West End residency, a sold-out UK and Ireland Tour, and an Amazon studios award-winning film, the smash-hit and critically acclaimed musical **Everybody's Talking About Jamie** returns to Sheffield!

Jamie New is 16, and lives on a council estate in Sheffield, doesn't quite fit in, is terrified of the future, and is going to be a sensation. Supported by his brilliant mum, surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight. This "funny, outrageous, touching" (Daily Telegraph), musical is not to be missed!

**A BOOKING** - We have booked 16 stalls seats at £46.50 each, and travel to and from Sheffield Lyceum will be in the Community Bus. If you're interested in coming along please let Jan or me know by

**14 December at the latest.** Payment for the theatre will be by cheque with bus cost paid on the day, either by cash or cheque.

Please contact: **Diana:** Tel 01298-873503 Email: [dcmacb@aol.com](mailto:dcmacb@aol.com) or  
**Jan:** Tel 01629-812960 Email: [jchappell7@btinternet.com](mailto:jchappell7@btinternet.com)



## What about other theatre going possibilities in 2024?

### Considering other options

There's no doubt that theatre going can be an expensive business, and this might be a bit off-putting for some members. So it may be worth considering trying Buxton Opera House, where tickets tend to be less expensive, and Chesterfield's theatres might also be a possibility.



Transport to Buxton or Chesterfield might be on a car share basis, and a small, set contribution to petrol rather than paying for a bus could cut theatre trip costs further. Of course, it depends on our finding things on



the programmes which appeal, and if we prefer matinee performance, this could also be a limiting factor.

However, to get us started, Buxton and Chesterfield programmes have been ordered.

Would you be interested in looking through what's on

offer and helping to choose from the programmes?

Would you be willing to use your car?

**Please let Diana or Jan know what you think of these ideas, and perhaps that you'd like to be involved.**



The first time I went skiing I wasn't very good, and I broke a leg. Luckily, it wasn't one of mine. **Michael Green**

Fishing is a jerk on one end of the line waiting for a jerk on the other end of the line. (*Apologies to any fishermen.*)

**Michael Palin**

I got into the ring with Muhammed Ali once and I had him worried for a while. He thought he'd killed me. **Tommy Cooper**

My kitchen linoleum is so black and shiny that I waltz while I wait for the kettle to boil. This pleasure is for the old who live alone.

**Florida Scott-Maxwell**

You realise you've drunk too much with your Christmas dinner when you slump down on a bean bag - and there is no bean bag.

**Dennis Letterman**

I find that distance lends enchantment to bagpipes. **William Blezard**

# GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART GROUP WINTER PROGRAMME

All meetings are held in the Friends' Meeting House,  
Chapel Row, Bakewell.

2.30 pm for a cuppa and a chat, with a 3.00 pm start.

£3 entry covers the cost of the speaker.

## Tuesday, 21 November 2023

David Kesteven, the Head Gardener at Renishaw Hall, will talk about his work there. We haven't visited the Hall for some time and may be "inspired" to do so again. Thank you, Vivien, for organising this.



## Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Jen Coffey has arranged for Hilary Hudson, from Sheffield, to visit us again. Hilary came pre-Covid and we were to visit her garden but were unable to do so. Guess why?! Something different this time: Hilary's talk is entitled "The Gardens of Barbados".



## Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Shady areas in the garden can be troublesome. Dr Andrew Ward's talk "Woodland Gems" is about shade loving plants. Angela Bird has organised this visit. Thank you Angela.

**An interesting sounding programme and thanks again  
to those who have organised it.**



Our Group is well supported and successful. We must continue to take joint responsibility for its organisation. A big thank you to everyone who has helped during the summer months with visits, and to those of you who are already suggesting, and making plans for 2024. It is this cooperative approach from our Group Members which makes sure our group thrives.



*Sheila Sidebottom*

***THE GROUP'S MOST RECENT VISIT*** - If you look carefully, there's an image of **Port Sunlight** behind the main heading. The Gardens/Houses group visited this Victorian village in September, built



by William Lever to house the workers in his soap factory in the Wirral, in materially decent living conditions. He personally supervised the planning, employing 30 architects, ensuring each block was unique. There was also a cottage hospital, schools, a concert hall, open air swimming pool, church, and a

temperance hotel. He introduced welfare schemes, and provided for the education and entertainment of his workforce, encouraging recreation and organisations which promoted art, literature, science and music.

He was a keen art collector, travelling widely, and in 1922 he opened the Lady Lever Art Gallery in the village, to house his many works of art. It commemorates his wife, Elizabeth, who had died in 1913.

Port Sunlight contains 900 Grade II listed buildings. It was a fascinating place to visit - the art gallery alone was worth the trip. A most enlightened man in many ways - though he DID force women to give up work when they married!

# Notes from my garden

## October 2023



We Plough The Fields And Scatter The Good Seeds On The Land". Last week was the local Church Harvest Festival and I think we are all taking stock of this year's harvest of flowers and vegetables. I personally am thinking about what worked and what didn't. But, of course, we too are dependent on the sunshine and rain. My peas were the best ever, having been planted and reared indoors until they were sturdy. It helped that they were grown in my old raspberry strip as I had pulled them all out to try to eliminate couch grass and renourished the soil. However, all the seedlings of lettuce and spinach, etc, growing in the shadow of where the raspberries had walked to, germinated and went to seed in the hot dry June. All my watering failed to save my plantings. In the flower beds, well established plants flourished, with gorgeous lupins, delphiniums and the self seeded campanulas overshadowing new plants. This winter I must ruthlessly dig some out, however pretty they are. One success was



the "Chelsea chop". Guided by Monty Don, I chopped back a swathe of Phlox in a very large clump. I had tried unsuccessfully to divide the clump, but the roots were too solid. Cutting back the stems delayed flowering and as the main phlox faded, the cut ones came into flower and I am enjoying watching the butterflies sipping nectar from them when only the michelmas daisies remain.

When the rain did come, through most of the rest of the Summer, it saved the lawn but left it full of weeds. I relished "no mow

May” and turned it into “slow mow June, July and August“, as I find it an increasingly arduous task. My lawn was laid as turf ten years ago and had very few weeds. Now the front lawn has a pretty scattering of starry golden celandine in Spring, but at least they die off. The rest of the lawn was a haze of purple wound wort and white clover which the bees loved in June but now has more weeds and moss than grass. The dandelions are flourishing and I know I must take action. I mowed it this weekend and it was long and wet and damp and clogged up the machine but at least the garden looks cared for. My plan is to weed kill in a few days but I’m not sure what to use - it feels a mammoth task, as many jobs do, as I get older.



The rain has also saved my apple trees. In June the leaves shrivelled and developed a white fur on them. A friend elsewhere had the same problem and he said it was caused by drought. Sure enough, the wet summer cured the problem and my well pruned trees of last season have grown new long straight shoots. When I pruned so heavily last Autumn, I thought trees and shrubs would remain in control for some years. Not so, like the rambling old fashioned rose that took me three weeks to cut back, it has bloomed with vigour and now needs another cull. The other tree I worried about, a huge Sweet Chestnut tree, like others around, is now shedding its mottled brown leaves. I have been told the disease is called canker but it hasn't yet affected the next season's ability to produce leaves and flowers.



Around every corner in my garden, I see another job waiting to be done, but I still love to take a cup of coffee and a book, and sit outside and watch the bees and butterflies, or listen to the birds singing, and tell myself there is always time for jobs tomorrow.

***Mrs Blossom***

# ***It was well worth the effort***



**Derbyshire Dales**  
Council for Voluntary Service

Do you ever attend something from “duty” and then realise it’s been a lovely, uplifting occasion, and well worth the effort of getting yourself there? Well, that’s a bit how I felt about representing BU3A and Oxfam at the AGM of the DDCVS - the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services - not a huge burden, just something to get done.

I suppose the uplifting bit was always going to be in the title, Voluntary - apart from the DDCVS employees, everyone was a volunteer, representing a voluntary group, service or organisation. After the AGM, some groups set up small displays. Glancing across the room I saw our own Art Group Co-ordinator, Linda Fussey, representing Artability, an organisation which works, through art, with people who have difficulties. To the left of her was our member,



Peter Dumenil, in front of the Tools for Self-Reliance display, a voluntary organisation which fettles and rejuvenates donated tools of all sorts, to send out to countries in Africa, to help artisans. And it was this display which really caught my eye, mainly because I learned that they don’t just send spades and hoes and drills and screwdrivers, they also send “sewing kits”, something I immediately identified with.

And it occurred to me that many of our members may have access to just the sort of thing which this group works with, whether it’s unneeded tools, or elderly sewing machines and unused sewing and craft boxes, spilling over with cotton reels and buttons and elastic and tape. All of these things are bread and butter to the group, and would be received with pleasure. (Mary Pope is secretary, 733944.)

Another connection for me, with the group, is that following their loss of premises a few years ago, they stored masses of all sorts of things in the cellar below Youlgrave Reading Room, and will probably continue to do so. They're now almost ready to move into new premises in the old public lavatory on Bakewell Recreation ground, where they'll be able to continue their work.

Briefly back to DDCVS, lots of people will know it as the place to get cheap photocopying done, at the Agriculture Centre. The main aim of the service is to offer a wide range of support to voluntary groups. It says, about itself -


*Derbyshire Dales CVS exists to promote strong, sustainable and healthy communities through voluntary and community action. It does this by supporting voluntary and community groups in the Derbyshire Dales, promoting the needs of communities and the work of the voluntary and community sector . . . It aims to build social capital.*

I love the idea of social capital. (Are we social capital?)

The "Social Prescribing" lady was very interested in aspects of our BU3A, and took our details and back copies of Gazettes away. And I daresay Tools for Self Reliance wouldn't say no to a few more working volunteers??

***Glenys Moore***

*I know the green poster above is out of date, but it gives us an idea of the sort of thing DDCVS organises which may be helpful to our BU3A. Ed*



Derbyshire Dales

### Dementia Awareness Training for Community Groups in the Dales

An interactive session exploring how those with memory loss can be best supported and included in small community groups.

Thursday 19th October at 2pm  
Friends Meeting House, Bakewell.

To book a place please contact Sarah or Polly 01629 812154 Option 1 or email enquiries@ddcvs.org.uk



**You're telling me!** A man answers a knock at his front door and is confronted by a six-foot ladybird, which proceeds to head butt him, punch him in the stomach and stamp on his head. The man wakes up in hospital where he describes his ordeal to the doctor. "You're the sixth case like this we've had today," says the doctor. "There's a rather nasty bug going around."

## Trumpet • French Horn • Trombone • Tuba?

Bakewell U3a members, Ian and Rachel Smith, have asked whether there are any members, or their friends, who either play (or once played) a brass instrument and would fancy joining the town's brass band. Bakewell Silver Band is a friendly, contesting band which practises once a week on a Wednesday night at the Drill Hall in Bakewell, and plays various concerts

in the local area, throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact Ian on 07599923655 or [iansmith1957@hotmail.com](mailto:iansmith1957@hotmail.com)



## Pineapple Cake - a recipe from Irene

- 8 oz self-raising flour
- 2 eggs
- 6 oz soft brown sugar
- 6 oz margarine
- 1 small tin crushed pineapple, drained
- 6 oz sultanas

Put margarine, sugar, sultanas and strained pineapple into a saucepan and bring to the boil.

Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Add the flour and beaten eggs to the mix, and stir well.

Pour the mixture into a lined 2 lb loaf tin.

Bake in a preheated oven, Gas 3, 325 F or 170 C degrees, for 1 - 1.5 hours.

Freezes well. **Irene says, "trust me, it's delicious."**

*I like to include more recipes, but sadly I ran out of space. Perhaps next time, as I have recipes in hand. Ed*



# Reducing Risk

Phones, computers - scams

Bakewell U3A is hosting a meeting to try to answer questions and raise awareness, with speakers from

**Derbyshire Police and  
Nationwide Building Society**

**At the Medway Centre, Bakewell  
Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2.00 pm**

*Everyone is most welcome. Tickets cost £2, from  
Medway Centre, Maxwells Bookshop, Mad4Ink*

Please join Bakewell U3A members on 10th November for a cup of tea, and an event which we hope will increase our confidence in the use of devices which are relied upon more and more for communication and for supporting memories.

For more information, Tel 01629 640352 or visit  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/bakewell/events>

Throughout the last 25 years, enjoyment of activities and the company of others has been at the heart of what Bakewell U3A does. For more information, make contact as above.





## Volunteers Needed.

If you have parenting experience,  
**YOU** can make a difference.

*I was approached by Jenny Harris in the hope that the work of Home Start could be publicised to our members. High Peak isn't quite our area, though Buxton and Hope Valley aren't so far. Ed. Jenny says:*

I'm a member of New Mills u3a. For the last 20 years I've volunteered for Home-Start - a family support charity which trains and supports volunteers to provide help and friendship for struggling families, intervening while children are young - in the vital early years. At the moment, Home-Start High Peak needs new volunteers and I'd be grateful for publicity in your Gazette.

I spent my working life teaching in secondary schools, often coming across troubled teenagers and talking to struggling parents. It repeatedly struck me that those of us who were trying to help were too late on the scene. Why didn't these families get help much earlier? Then I found out about Home-Start. The two core beliefs of this



family support charity are that help should be offered in children's earliest years and that the best kind of help comes from other parents - people who know that parenting is a difficult job at the best of times.

I trained as a Home-Start volunteer as soon as I retired, 20 years ago. Befriending and helping families, and then becoming a trustee, led to some of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I can recommend it. Home-Start High Peak needs volunteers and trustees right now. If you have a bit of time to spare, it's worth thinking about. Grandparents make brilliant Home-Start volunteers - and retired people have a lifetime of experience to offer as trustees.

**Jenny Harris, Home Start**

[admin@homestarthighpeak.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestarthighpeak.org.uk) or phone 07971 957668



## **Alan “Al” Fawcett (1.9.1938 - 26.9.2023)**

Al and I would like to thank our friends in BU3A for the friendship, kindness and support you've shown us over the last year.

But I prefer to focus on the happy times, especially the wonderful walks and holidays we've enjoyed



together. Neither of us can claim to be “local”: Al, a Londoner, the accent being a bit of a give-away, and I, a Rochdalian with no sense of direction. So we really appreciated having expert guides to help us explore the Derbyshire countryside we have both come to love.

I'm sure many of you will have heard Al's tales of “being bombed out of London by Hitler”, resulting in his family's move to Essex. Some 40 years later, with a lot of water under both our bridges, we found ourselves mucking out horses in adjacent stables in Essex, and our mutual love of horses began our friendship. I didn't like Essex and more and more weekends were spent travelling to Derbyshire, which I had grown to love whilst at Sheffield University.

By the time our working lives came to an end we were settled in Youlgrave, with its wonderful community, and able to spend a lot more time in the hills and local countryside. BU3A, and especially the walking groups, were invaluable in persuading Al that it really isn't that grim up North. He was very aware how lucky we all are to enjoy such a landscape.

Many thanks, and good wishes to you all.

***Pam Walker***



Photo by [Gary Flack](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## More News from Hope Valley u3a

One of the great things about u3a is that all clubs belong to a network of 1000+ charities that provide the opportunity for those no longer in work to learn for fun. Whilst we all share the same ethos, it is amazing how Bakewell and Hope Valley have developed in such different ways. We are delighted to let friends in Bakewell know about a brand-new group that might be of interest to you. If you know any singers or musicians, we are also looking for help to re-start Singing for Fun

## Current Affairs Discussion Group

There is so much happening in our fast-moving world that one of our members suggested that we start a discussion group. Led by the members, this non-political group will share insights and exchange ideas.

Photo by [ThisisEngineering RAEng](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Priscilla Du Preez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Singing for fun

Before the pandemic, we ran a very popular singing for fun group. We all had lots of laughs and much pleasure from singing together. Sadly, the group has now stopped. Do you know any singers and musicians who could help us to restart the group?

To find out more, click on the QR code to visit our website or email [chair.HVu3a@gmail.org](mailto:chair.HVu3a@gmail.org) or call 07534 833814



## **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.

#### **Chairman**

Peter Holt 01246 583279

#### **Secretary**

Sam Lewis 01629 640352

[sptmlewis@gmail.com](mailto:sptmlewis@gmail.com)

#### **Database Co-ordinator**

Phil Clarke 01629 630095

[bakewellu3adba@outlook.com](mailto:bakewellu3adba@outlook.com)

#### **New Members**

Glenys Moore 01629 636477

[glenysanmoore@googlemail.com](mailto:glenysanmoore@googlemail.com)

#### **Committee Members**

Anne Peller 01629 813591

Pam Walker 07786 245406

#### **Vice Chairman**

Vacant

#### **Treasurer**

Neil Sharples 07954 241294

[neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:neils.sharples@tiscali.co.uk)

11 Castle Drive, Bakewell. DE45 1AS

#### **Gazette Editor**

Glenys Moore - 01629 636477

[email.the.gazette@googlemail.com](mailto:email.the.gazette@googlemail.com)

#### **Website Manager**

Andy Roberts 07979 707383

[web.admin@BakewellU3A.e4ward.com](mailto:web.admin@BakewellU3A.e4ward.com)

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](http://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 find your way around*

Page 1	Our Coffee Afternoon and a mystery oval
Page 2/3	Introducing our Chairman, Peter Holt
Page 4	Editor's ponderings and "best" joke
Page 5	Paying your subscription
Page 6	Looking for a special person - publicity
Page 7	Christmas Meal and January Meg Laird talk
Page 8	Meg Laird Christmas Jazz
Page 9	Bits and pieces
Pages 10/11	The Walkers' Christmas lunch
Pages 12/13	Call to members - improving the website
Page 13	Appeal for a new Christmas Tree team
Pages 14/15	Lots of autumnal poetry
Page 16	Book review of a "charming" read
Page 17/20	Walkers' programme
Pages 18/19	Group information
Page 21	Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Page 22/23	Theatre Group theatre trip, new ideas
Page 24/25	Garden and Houses Group programme
	Report on last visit, Port Sunlight
Pages 26/27	Mrs Blossom
Pages 28/29	Report on Derbyshire Dales CVS AGM
Page 30	A call for brass players from Bakewell Band and a recipe from Irene
Page 31	The poster for our meeting about Scams
Page 32	High Peak Home Start - an appeal for volunteers
Page 33	Alan "Al" Fawcett
Page 34	Information from Hope Valley U3A
Page 35	The official stuff
Page 36	This page

