

The GAZETTE



Issue No 85 February 2023



**Ashgate
Hospice**

£10,999,570 still needed

I seem to remember a number of front pages, over the years, showing happy members at Coffee Mornings in Baslow Village Hall, and another one seemed to



be one too many. Far more important for us to see what we'd been raising money for at our Charity Coffee Morning on Monday, 23 January. It's an organisation which needs £11,000,000 every year to keep going - Ashgate Hospice - and one which does such vital work for our community, and touches thousands of people's lives.

We had an excellent turnout and it was really encouraging that so many of you "brought", with donations of cakes and preserves and

unwanted gifts and bric-a-brac, and then, since lots of it disappeared, many of you must have done the “buying” bit. What was left will appear again on a stall at the next Oxfam Sale in the Town Hall on Monday, 6 March.

Three representatives from Ashgate Hospice joined us for our



event, and Adele gave us a clear understanding of the basic finances behind our local hospice - £11 million needed every year, £4 million from the NHS and, therefore, £7 million from fund-raising, etc. She described some of the innovative fund-raising their supporters undertake (*anyone for a bungee jump*

or just a bit of sparkle - above?). She also talked very movingly about her husband's end of life care at the Hospice in 2021.

Of course, the Ashgate Hospice Charity Shops are an important aspect of the fund-raising. We have our own in Bakewell and Gill



Roberts has been a volunteer there for 14 years, as Adele mentioned.

Someone I know recently discovered the Ashgate Hospice Furniture Company and coffee shop on Storforth Lane Trading Estate, where they found what they considered to be a really good bargain.

If you don't want to do the maths, we raised £430 at our event.

Contents Page

Page 1, 2	Our wonderful Charity Coffee Morning
Page 2	Committee details have escaped to the inside back cover
Page 4	Editor's ponderings
Page 6	Appeal for Meg Laird speakers from among membership
Page 7	Our next Meg Laird talk
Page 8	People and their sheds
Page 9	Poetry corner
Page 10-13	Moving house - it's a doddle
Page 14	Jokes
Page 15	Another Coffee Morning
Page 16, 17	Third Age Trust, U3As and the future
Page 18	Soup recipe
Page 19	Walking programme
Page 20, 21	Table of groups
Page 22	Walking programme
Page 23	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Page 24	Christmas Tree update
Page 25	Bridge is back
Page 26, 27	Volunteering to do something for your BU3A
Page 28, 29	Mrs Blossom's gardening notes
Page 30	I never knew that about Worcester
Page 31	Jokes
Page 32	Tolerance
Page 33	Craft group
Page 34, 35	Book Group
Page 36, 37	Theatre group
Page 38	Gardens and Houses group, and Theatre group continued
Page 39	Committee details
Page 40	Gardens and Houses Group



A message from the Secretary





Editor's Ponderings

One of our members, Angela Bird, had a most unfortunate Gazette-related experience back in November, and I hope not too many of you shared the same fate. I know that issue 84 was a bumper one with 44 pages, the biggest ever, but a particularly officious (or efficient, depending on which way you're looking at it) post office official decided Angela's Gazette weighed too much for the 2nd class postage stamp we'd stuck on, and her postman proceeded to charge her £2.50 in excess postage - which she paid, and assures me it was worth every penny! Thank you, Angela.

And now, me. I hadn't been poorly for years and years, so I was probably overdue a bout of something or other. Well on 24 November, I knew I was going down with something, and it's laid me rather low, and (today, 10 Jan) 7 and a half weeks on, I think I'm just beginning to come back up. But, if this Gazette's not very perky, it will be because my wet lettuce phase isn't quite over. (*Coffee Morning*, 23 Jan, *feeling much stronger*.)

And now to Anne Peller's article on Pages 26 and 27. If you gain nothing else from reading her piece, you can't fail to notice how much I enjoyed trawling through the "Yes" clipart, and fitting as many in as possible. I wondered whether the elephant might agree to become Chair?

Sorry about the missing apostrophe - I couldn't correct it. No prizes for spotting it, but pats on backs.

And now two little personal requests. I'm involved with the Bakewell Oxfam Group; we have a member who specialises in collecting together unwanted jewellery, and she creates a lovely stall at all our events and raises good money. If anyone comes across any unwanted jewellery, we'd be delighted to relieve you of it. And - I make plant hangers (you'll sometimes see them hanging in Bakewell Cancer Research shop) - and I need a curtain ring for every hanger. Again, if anyone has unwanted curtain rings, I'd be very happy to have them. Thank you, with hope, in advance.

Ed

A really heartfelt plea to all typists of articles for the Gazette

Dear Reader - You can have no idea of the joy I feel when I receive an article for the Gazette - particularly if its unbidden, unexpected - it's a delight.

And there's a secret to increasing my joy and delight - that's typing the article into the computer WITHOUT using the carriage return key (big one on the right with a left pointing arrow) at the end of every line. The computer's clever, it KNOWS when to start a new line. You DO NOT need to tell it. If you do, you put a "something" at the end of every line which I have to remove from every line before I can work on the article, change font, size of text, etc. Thank you

Dear Reader - You can have no understanding of the joy I feel when I receive an article for the Gazette - particularly if its unbidden, unexpected - it's a delight. And there's a secret to increasing my joy and delight - that's typing the article into the computer WITHOUT using *That's what it looks like.*

I'm dyslexic. There was a sign outside my school that said, "Slow Children," which didn't do much for our self-esteem. Then again, we couldn't read it.



Jimmy Carr

I have hundreds and hundreds of books, but no bookcase. Nobody would lend me a bookcase.



Henry Youngman

MLT

The Meg Laird/Social Team is always on the lookout for speakers. We receive a lot of notices touting for the chance to talk to our members, and some of them charge an awful lot of money, and, as you can imagine, some are much better than others, some are and some aren't worth the price they charge. We try to vary the topics, and where we can use our own connections, we do. For instance, Professor Dwyer-Joyce, who spoke to us about Michelangelo, is Annette's son, I know Christine Gregory, and Gill Roberts knows Gus Jones, our speaker in March.

We are very firmly of the opinion that we must have members whose past lives, whether professional or personal, will be really rich pickings for providing our members with interesting, even riveting talks in the future, and we need such

members to cease hiding their lights under bushels or whatever they hide them under, acknowledge that they have something to offer to our U3A, and make themselves known to us. This isn't a time for self-effacement. Or spouses could shop them to us (phone Anne Peller on 813591 or Sheila Sidebottom on 814842). However it happens, we need to know of the talk-giving skills and talents of our members. *The Meg Laird/Social Team*



And definitely a date for all our diaries

Wednesday, 26 July 2023

A Meg Laird gathering with a difference - our Summer Buffet, with piano accompaniment from Jonathan Mallalieu. Jonathan is the music teacher at

the Medway Center, giving lessons to all ages in piano, guitar and singing. He is the house pianist at Biggin Hall Hotel, playing there two or three times a week during dinner. He also plays at weddings and private events. He specialises in the great American songbook: Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, Hoagy Carmichael but also Elton John, Beatles, Joni Mitchell etc. **What a treat in store. Book the date now.**



Our next Meg Laird Talk will be on Thursday, 30 March 2023, 2.00 for a 2.15 pm start, at the Medway Centre.



**Open to non-members.
Why not invite a friend?**

£3 entrance includes refreshments with CAKE.



Three Bullets on the Doorstep

A A 'Gus' Jones last spoke to a Meg Laird gathering about his book, "*Scott's Forgotten Surgeon*". He introduces himself below:

Following the ultimate embarrassment of having to resign as a Police Cadet in Hampshire Police for being 'too short', I joined Kent Police in 1965 as they were impressed with my cricket and rugby prowess.

Although a member of Kent Police throughout my police service, I spent over 20 years outside the force, at New Scotland Yard, or doing overseas postings/secondments/investigations - in Hong Kong, USA, Australia and, finally, Italy and Albania.

I specialised in investigating money laundering and international organised crime groups/mafia, which led to my meeting with and liaison with Judge Giovanni Falcone in both London and Italy, prior to his assassination by the mafia in Sicily in 1992.



'*Three Bullets on the Doorstep*' concentrates on these investigations in Italy and wider Europe and includes sensitive information that has not been previously made public.

Following my retirement from these activities I researched and wrote the biography of polar explorer, Dr Reginald Koettlitz, '*Scott's Forgotten Surgeon*' (which is still obtainable via the library service). We are hoping '*Three Bullets on the Doorstep*' will be published early this year.

A A 'Gus' Jones

The things people get up to in sheds!

Back in issue 83, we contemplated a few famous sheds, and you were promised a little more from *Shedloads of Blessings* in the future, which is now here.

DISNEY Can any of us imagine our early lives without Mickey and Donald and Goofy? Well, they all began life in a shed. Walt and his brother, Roy, paid their Uncle Robert \$1 a week to use his shed, and it became the very first Disney Studio. They called their business the Disney Brothers' Studio on 16 October 1923. As we know, it **did** move on to greater things than a garden shed.



ROALD DAHL was so impressed by what he saw and heard of Dylan Thomas's shed (see Issue 83) that he took it as a template for his own literary shed. He needed a quiet space away from his 5 young children to be able to write peacefully. He went on to write all his famous books there, from *Charlie and the Chocolate*



Factory to James and the Giant Peach to Fantastic Mr Fox to The BFG and Matilda. More than 250 million copies of his books have sold worldwide. How many of us remember reading these wonderful books to our own children - and enjoying them enormously ourselves?



The Glory of the Garden

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,

Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all,
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'Prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing - "Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away! **Rudyard Kipling**





Moving House? It's a doddle, isn't it?

Last Spring we decided to move house. Scary? Yes, well people do it every day, don't they. You've probably done it several times. I've

always known it's one of the Top Five stress situations – but hey, we could do this!

To start at the beginning of the story, we lived half way up a very steep hill. Our house and garden climb on up the hill. There are many steps in our lives, in the house, in the garden - for instance, from the cellar right up to the drive where we keep the car, it's 38 steep stone steps. Furthermore, whenever you want to nip to the local shop it's a stroll down the hill and then a slog back up again - and believe me, that hill gets steeper daily.



The view from the top of the 38 steps

We are now in our eighties and are definitely too old for all these steps and hills - and truth be told, have been so for a few years now. But we love the village we live in and I can't imagine living anywhere else, so it's been a dilemma. However, the opportunity arose to buy a house down in the centre of the village - on the level, at the bottom of the hill, with a manageable garden, and so we jumped at it. When we viewed the house it immediately felt like home. I could imagine living there. It's a bit smaller but that's good, one is supposed to downsize at our age; but it's still big enough to have family and friends to stay - good, one is supposed to keep socializing at our age. So far, so good. Down-sizing and down-hilling - at last!

Four days after putting our house on the market we had accepted an offer from buyers who had already sold their house and we had our offer on the

new (vacant) house accepted. Great, this house move business was going so well - what's all this about stress? This was late May, perfect timing; with any luck we should be moving in the summer, just in time to enjoy drinks in the garden with all our friends and new neighbours. No long chain involved. Everything was looking rosy.



That was then. Fast forward to mid-October and here we are, still stuck on the hill. No, neither sale has fallen through (yet). But - how could it possibly be taking this long?

At this point, anxiety began to creep in. Now, it is appropriate to say that my husband has some health issues and so the majority of the work to be done is being done by me. And it's beginning to tell. I find my mind increasingly unwilling to focus and concentrate - on anything. I thought I was an organised person. It seems I am not so any more!

I am never going to move again.

I find that our buyers' solicitors are, not to put too fine a point on it, appalling. What should have been a relatively speedy process is dragging on interminably. However, there is good news - I manage to find a local removals firm which is prepared to move us - in spite of the very difficult access and all those steps. They will have to use small vans



and shuttle between the two properties. Because of this they can't do the move in one day. Help - what to do? Our lovely solicitor tells me it *may* be possible, by means of a special agreement, to move some stuff into the new house the day before completion - *if* the vendors agree. Sleepless nights while I wonder if they will agree. Yes!

They do, so that's that problem solved. Breathe again.

I am never going to move again.

And then another hiccup. There is a problem with a missing mortgage at the buyers' solicitors. All this just as our new Prime Minister

(Liz Truss) and Chancellor (Kwasi Karteng) have arrived on the scene and thrown the markets and the Bank of England into utter chaos; suddenly, everyone's mortgage is going to be costing them a great deal more than a week ago.

More panic - will we really lose the sale at this late stage? Apparently not, it is just a technical hitch and thus, eventually, at the beginning of November we exchange contracts, with completion at the end of the month.

Oh - incidentally - in September, our landline developed a fault - no incoming or outgoing calls. It seems BT had managed to transfer our landline to the new house already, in error, and for some reason it could not be returned to us. Thank heaven for WiFi calling on the mobile, otherwise we would have been completely incommunicado, with countless calls needed daily.



I am never going to move house again.

Then there was the problem of what to do with two extremely nervous cats during the move - happily solved by a delightful cat-loving neighbour, who kept them

in peaceful luxury during all the upheaval. (*Not the Hinsliff cats.*)

The next problems to arise were that firstly I was diagnosed with an auto immune disease, giving me quite severe pain and aching joints, followed next by a spell in hospital for my husband with Sepsis - all this the week before the move.

I am never going to move house again.

When the move finally happened, we were indeed blessed - a good friend even



turned up with a team of her friends, offering to clean our house as we moved out. Local friends offered to feed us on both moving days; then a new neighbour turned up with a meal for the night of our arrival, plus a huge batch of soup which fed us for days. We have had numerous offers of help from friends and neighbours, all of which reinforces the very reason we wanted to stay in the same village community. For days, cards have



regularly popped through our letterbox welcoming us to our new house. Now, a month later, even though there is more unpacking to do and the house needs a great deal of work to be done, it feels comfortable and it feels like home.

However, I can't remember – did I mention that I AM NEVER MOVING HOUSE AGAIN??!!

Judy Hinsliff

My enormous thanks to Judy for writing this wonderful article - I hope she found it cathartic, after all the traumas. I visited to take the photos, and the Hinsliffs look amazingly settled after only 6 weeks - though a closer relationship with the new house is revealing a few jobs which still need doing! Ed

Everywhere I go I'm asked whether university stifles writers. My opinion is that it doesn't stifle enough of them.

Flannery O'Connor

The pen is mightier than the sword, and considerably easier to write with.

Marty Feldman

An encyclopaedia is a system for collecting dust in alphabetical order.

Mike Barfield

I've had a wonderful evening - but this wasn't it. ***Groucho Marx***

Agatha Christie has given more pleasure in bed than any other woman.

Nancy Banks-Smith

Many thanks for your book. I shall waste no time in reading it.

Benjamin Franklin

A cautionary tale

Two baggage handlers at Manchester Airport, Bert and Fred, have heard that aircraft fuel gives cocktails an extra kick, so they steal some to liven up their night's drinking. Sure enough, the aircraft cocktails taste great, and the pair get plastered.



Next morning, Bill wakes up to a phone call from Fred. "How do you feel?" asks Fred. "Not bad," replies Bill. "But, tell me, have you passed wind this morning?" asks Fred. "No, not yet," says Bill. "Well don't," cautions Fred, "I did and I ended up in Paris."

Pesto Salmon

Place salmon steaks in an ovenproof dish and squeeze lemon juice over them. Spread a layer of pesto over the salmon, and sprinkle with breadcrumbs and parmesan cheese. Cover and bake in a medium oven for 20 to 30 minutes.

Thanks to Rosemary Wolfe - it sounds like an easy and tasty dish - and it doesn't look bad!



The worlds first tool...



made by Black & Pecker

I haven't kept up my subscription to the Scrabble club. Now, they've started sending me threatening letters.

Thanks to Jane Kayleigh Burgess

We tried having an extra Coffee Morning back in September 2019, and as it was reasonably successful, we organised another one for Thursday, 30 April 2020, but, of course, Covid put paid to that one. Anyway, the Social/Meg Laird team thinks it would be nice to have another one, as well as the January one so . . .



another BU3A Coffee Morning

**on Thursday, 18 May
10.30 am - 12 noon in the
Friends' Meeting House**

It will, primarily, be a chance for members to get together, chat and enjoy company from across the groups. But, as Spring will be springing, and thoughts turning to gardening and growing, we hope little plants and unneeded seedlings might find their way to the hall. We'll do Bring and Buy on anything you'd like to bring - plants, cakes, jams, bric-a-brac, Cds, DVDs, books, etc.

Please join us, invite friends who haven't joined yet, spread the jolly BU3A message.

And, please, book the date in your calendar/diary.



Please read and inwardly digest

This may not promise to be the most fun article in the world, but it deserves to be read, and some of us may even view the presentations mentioned at the end of Paragraph 4, and decide we have an opinion about the direction that National U3A should take, and respond on the website mentioned. *Ed*

TAT, U3As and the future?

TAT - or the Third Age Trust - is our national governing body. To help finance all the activities at head office, including staff, BU3A, and all other U3As across the country, pays £4 annually for each member so we all have a substantial stake in TAT and what it does (after all that's 25% of our subscription).

TAT hosts the BU3A website, a system which helps us manage content of the website, as well as providing insurance for each BU3A member in respect of some activities, use of the U3A brand, online interest groups, workshops and, at least in the past, summer schools and much more. There have recently been serious problems with the website service provided by the host.

The board which controls TAT believes change is necessary. Board



members are responsible for governance (compliance with Charity Commission, laws, finances) and for membership matters, publicity, recruitment, services and communication. There have been

A view from the top table at a pre-Covid AGM



Wokingham looks a lively group. I liked their banner. With 2000 members and 180 groups,

we're not in their league. Imagine organising that! Ed

allegations that the board is out of touch with members. Some members of the board find these responsibilities too onerous. I suspect that a volunteer will **not** be found from the East Midlands to replace Jean Hogg who has been our representative for some years.

So, is change necessary, if U3As and TAT are to thrive? Discussion of what might change has begun and all U3A members are invited to contribute. Contributions might include criticism that TAT uses resources on things which are not a benefit to some members, ideas for improving the service provided to BU3A and ideas for improving awareness of U3A among non-members. One concept which has been floated is that the board should be responsible for governance and there should be a separate council with responsibility for membership matters. Reaction to this is sought. Comments and questions can be sent to governance@u3a.org.uk or to strategy@u3a.org.uk, as appropriate. On the webpage www.u3a.org.uk/news/fit-for-the-future, there are links to two presentations given at the AGM last autumn and to the annual report, which also includes relevant information. Bakewell members might like to watch these presentations for background to the current situation and thinking.

I feel that, as we fund TAT, all members should have an opportunity to influence this discussion. The committee of BU3A will eventually be asked to vote on concrete proposals. To do this in the absence of comment from our members would be troubling. I therefore ask that any contribution you make be copied to the committee so that the committee can be aware of the views of our members. Members who don't have access to email can send comments or questions to me and, as secretary, I will pass them on.

Sam Lewis, Secretary and Website Manager

POTAGE 'CRECY'

This lovely recipe, courtesy of Elizabeth David, is one of the easiest soup recipes imaginable. To the English cook, the 'Crecy' of the title may suggest the battle of 1346 when the Black Prince defeated the French near that place. No such idea would occur to a French cook. He or she would know that the soup included carrots. So put simply, Carrot Soup. Serves 3.

3/4 lb carrots
1 large potato
1/2 small onion
1 oz butter
1 pt chicken or vegetable stock
Salt and black pepper



Chop the vegetables and sweat in the butter in a covered pan over a medium heat for 15 mins, stirring from time to time. Add stock and seasoning and simmer for another 20 mins. Liquidize and adjust seasoning. If too thick, dilute with a little water or stock.

This is a recipe that some cookery writers would refer to disdainfully as "comfort food". What's wrong with a bit of comfort, I'd like to know? Bon appetit. **Thanks to Diana Watson - sounds delicious**

A problem shared . . .

Three elderly gents, Ben, Jim and Tom, are comparing ailments. "I've got problems," says Ben, "every morning at 7 o'clock, I get up and try to urinate, but I can never manage it." "You think you've got problems," comments Jim, "every morning at 8 o'clock, I get up and try to move my bowels, but it never works." Then Tom joins in, "Every morning at 7 o'clock, I urinate, and every morning at 8 o'clock, I defecate." "You've no problems, then," says Ben. "Yes, I have," replies Tom, "I don't wake up till nine."





Walking Programme February - May 2023

All Walkers: please read these paragraphs.

The format of the walking programme has changed and we no longer give walk leaders' names.

Occasionally we do not have enough volunteers by the time the pages need to go to print, which is understandable, given how far in advance we are asking. Instead we are now providing dates only for each walk, along with a short generic description and lunch arrangements.

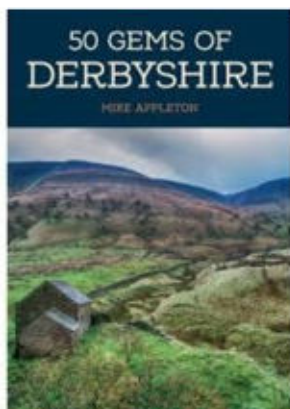
Note also: Winter Monday Walks have changed due to large numbers of pubs/cafes being closed on Monday. If you don't receive an email before the walk, or you are unsure whether it will be suitable for you, please contact the walk organiser for details. It is vital to get agreement before bringing a dog. You need to tell the walk leader if you intend to walk, and if you change your mind.

MONDAY/TUESDAY WALKS

Week 2 – Monday/Tuesday Around 5 miles at a moderate pace but may include steep paths, stiles and uneven terrain.

Organiser: John Anderson jandganderson@btinternet.com
01629 734531

Dates: Mondays - 13 February, 13 March, 17 April, 15 May



Week 3 - Monday Gentle stroll over easy terrain with very little incline and no stiles for approximately one and a half to two hours. Walk aimed at those wanting more than a trail walk but with limited challenge. However, all are welcome and should be aware of the very gentle pace. Plenty of time to chat and enjoy the environment. Lunch at café/pub in winter

Organiser: Jill Ormerod 01298 872339
jillormerod@gmail.com

Dates: Monday - 20 February, 20 March,
15 May

Details of our Group Activities - February 2023

Subject	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Ancient Greek	Peter Ward	01629 732210	Alternate Mondays	2 - 4 pm	Phone Co-ordinator
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	janeburgess50@yahoo.co.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 - 4 pm	Medway Centre
Cooking by Men	Peter Holt	01246 583279 07801183913	2 nd Tuesday	5.30 - 7.30 pm	Lady Manners School peter@emailholt.com
Craft	Gill Roberts	01629 813414	2 nd Wednesday	2 - 4 pm	Wye Bank, Bakewell Phone the Co-ordinator
French conversation	Gary Morewood	01629 812299	1 st Wednesday	10 - 12 ish	At Costa Coffee
Gardens & Houses	Sheila Sidebottom Vivien Stephenson	01629 814842 01629 813643	Various Tuesday visits	Varies	Contact Co-ordinators
History	Richard Thurlow	01629 636944	1 st Tuesday	10 - 12 noon	Bakewell Methodist Church
Luncheon Club	Anne Peller	01629 813591	1 st Wednesday	Need you ask?	Various restaurants

Details of our Group Activities, Page 2 - February 2023

Subject	Co-ordinator	Telephone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Out and About	01629 732810	01629 813414	01629 636477	01629 813591	01433 639713
Parish Churches					
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	2nd Tuesday	2.00 pm	3 Brookside, Bakewell
Polish up your French	Liz Gelanos	lizgelanos @gmail.com	4 th Monday	2.30 - 4.30 pm	Phone 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			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: janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young	01629 814796	3 rd Wednesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Phone co-ordinator

Week 4 – Monday/Tuesday A walk of some 4 good tempered miles, occasional ascents and a few stiles, but much topical interest and variety.



Organiser: Alison Stuart 01629 812203
alisongayford@gmail.com

Dates: Mondays 27 February, 27 March, 24 April, 22 May

LONGER WALKS

Week 1 - Wednesday 7 to 9 miles A

moderately paced walk over a variety of terrains. Picnic all year round, unless very inclement

Organiser: Neil Sharples neils.sharples@tiscali.com 07954 241294

Dates: Wednesday, 1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May

Week 2 - Thursday 8-10 miles, at a moderate pace. Picnic all year round.

Organiser: George Wolfe
geowolfel@gmail.com 01433
631308

Dates: Thursdays, 9 February,
9 March, 13 April, 11 May

Week 3 – Friday 5 to 7 miles at a moderate pace. Pub or café lunch

Organiser: Martin Pape 01629 820265 empapecromford@gmail.com

Dates: Fridays, 17 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May



Week 4 – Wednesday 7 to 9 miles, a moderately paced walk over a variety of terrains. Picnic all year round, unless very inclement

Organiser: Neil Sharples
neils.sharples@tiscali.com
07954 241294

Dates: Wed, 22 February,
22 March, 26 April, 24 May

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust talk - a sell out

I suspect that mentioning Barn Owls is enough to make a lot of us go a bit soft in the middle. Anyway, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust mentioned "Barn Owls" in connection with its January meeting, and it was standing room only, even before starting time, down at the Darley Dale Methodist Church Hall - and it's not a small room. We reckoned that over a 100 were seated.



The speaker brought two delightful specimens along as visual aids, and in the break, her young assistant was kind enough to bring one of them to the back, where the standers were standing, allowing lots of people to hold her and even stroke her chest.

(Not a U3A event, I know, but DWT talks may interest some of us - they're almost always very good. Ed)

A message from our Secretary

I support BU3A because I believe we enhance the lives of some people in the Bakewell area. I guess that more people could benefit from BU3A and perhaps some existing members could benefit more.

I think an enthusiastic leadership team of a chairman and one or two vice-chairmen would help BU3A to bring more enjoyment and friendship to our communities. Could you be part of that team?

Some aspects of the traditional role of chairman can be delegated to others and we have committee members willing to take these on. These include monitoring of compliance with laws and constitution, managing meetings and representation of BU3A at regional and national level. ***Sam Lewis (Secretary and Website Manager)***



Oh Christmas Tree



I know you'll all be delighted to hear that BU3A was again represented at the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church, in December. Some of you may even have seen it in all its beauty and splendour. And you'll all be on tenterhooks to hear who responded to the appeal in the November Gazette for someone to take over the reins from Gill Roberts, and mastermind our 2022 creation. Well, you'll no doubt be amazed to hear that nobody did, so Gill stepped up to the mark again (*must take my ironic hat off*). Fortunately, she did have some happy helpers - Pru Kirby, is pictured with Gill,

When Gill realised she'd have to come up with another idea for the U3A tree, she asked members of the Craft Group to help with making doves - and lots of them turned up to do exactly that. And, as the Church thinks BU3A is a wonderful supporter of their Festival, they asked if one of our members would read a poem at the Opening Ceremony - and that's what Pip Young did, on our behalf. Gill took the tree down in early January, and even helped clean the church, so there's no doubt that Gill (and BU3A?) certainly held our end up.





Excellent news **Bridge is back**

Our BU3A Bridge Group had been an extremely thriving, enthusiastic group, so when its Tournament Director (a very important person in Bridge terms) left, there was consternation followed by sadness. And the group hasn't been meeting for some time.

However, Trish Simmonds wasn't happy with that state of affairs and she set about cajoling and persuading, in the hope that someone would undertake the training needed to become a Tournament Director. And her cajoling has paid off, and the group now has its very own Tournament Director, and is up and running again. It's meeting every Thursday, 1 - 4 pm, at the Medway Centre. Seventeen members attended the first gathering, and it's hoped that more members will return once the good news gets around. So **very well done, Trish.**

(I'm wondering whether we could set Trish on to find us a new Chairman! Ed)



Would you believe it?

Paddy is going through airport customs on his way home from a trip to France. He's asked to identify the contents of a bottle in his luggage. "That's holy water which I've brought back from Lourdes," explains Paddy. The customs officer opens the bottle and sniffs the contents. "That smells more like whisky to me," he suggests.

"Well, the lord be praised - isn't that fantastic? Another miracle!"

Volunteers must step up for U3A to survive



This was the headline of an article in the Winter edition of "Third Age Matters" (the national U3A magazine) and it seems apposite to draw it to your attention at the start of a New Year with New Year resolutions in our minds, and subs paid; a reasonable amount, I hope you agree, for

another 12 months of good things to share.

The ethos of U3A is that of self-help and mutual aid. Members are invited to work together to make things happen BUT this ethos is thin on the ground amongst most (90%) of people who join. This has

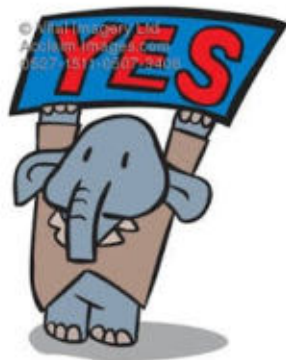
damaging consequences - a group coordinator may step down after many years and the group closes because no-one else is willing to take over. YES, that has happened and is likely to happen again, in Bakewell.

Members may suggest a new group but do not want to run it and, if a meeting is called of those interested, almost invariably no-one wants to take even partial responsibility. The U3A is NOT a club which you join to take advantage of what other people are willing to provide.

We can and must all help in some way, be it simply a willingness to be responsible for refreshments at each meeting (groups have nearly closed for lack of someone to do this), some will feel able to lead a group meeting on an ad hoc

basis - or perhaps each member in turn. At large gatherings most of us could manage to stack our own chair or gather up crockery after refreshments, rather than walk away leaving it all to the same tired few organisers.

There are all levels of jobs to be done, some with rather more responsibility, and I remind you that





we are still without a Chairman, and haven't had a Vice-Chairman for years. Yes, your committee is managing to keep us going but this is putting added responsibility on the shoulders of some who already have a job (or two). Job descriptions which appeared in two of last year's Gazettes were maybe off-putting . . . but we are NOT managing a multi-national business with a turnover of billions!

Since I joined U3A almost 13 years ago, there have been five Chairmen, including me. I protested, when Meg Laird approached me, that, as someone who chose not to have anything to do with computers, therefore no emails, and no mobile phone, and no experience of committee work, I was unqualified . . . but I was persuaded. I did it anyway, and to the best of my ability, as have all your Chairmen, with much help and encouragement

from the rest of the Committee.



At the Poetry Reading Group, last week, I chose Rudyard Kipling's "The Glory of the Garden," and I have asked Glenys to include some of the eight verses in Poetry Corner. I think what it says about gardens and gardening can apply very well to our U3A and all of us who can do

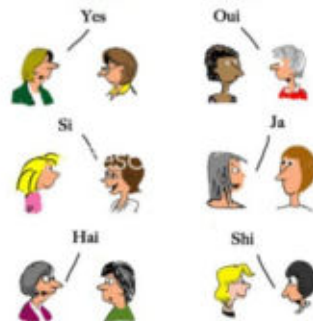
something towards its continuing to be a thing of joy.

Please, please, offer all the help you can to keep the amenity which is our U3A healthy and vibrant.

Anne Peller

(If you turn to Poetry Corner on Page 9, you'll find all 8 verses. I couldn't resist, it reads so pleasingly, and Anne's right, it does make her point. Ed)

WAYS TO SAY YES





Notes from my garden

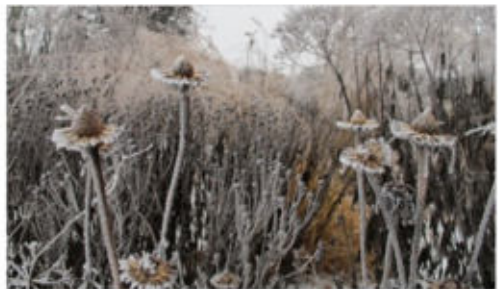
We are now over a month past the Winter Equinox and my winter garden looks a mess. I started, in the sunny autumn, to carry out my plan to cut back all my hedges to manageable proportions. I began with an old-fashioned crimson rambling rose. It was beautiful but the thorny branches had taken over a bed and were beginning to cover a path. To



make it worse, a summer jasmine was intertwined. It took me over a week to cut out all the old wood, leaving only young new branches. It looks very thin but, no doubt, it will recover in a year or so. Then I'll cut back a beech hedge, taking care not to disturb the robin's nest.

I then went on holiday. When I returned I turned my attention to a back fence. I left the forsythia until after its Spring flowering but brutally hacked a tall buddleia and a snowball tree but had to leave a weigelia as it come into a second flowering because of the rain following a hot summer. There my efforts stalled.

I did have a visit from my gardener friend who, in no time, pruned two apple trees flat topped. I didn't know how to prune plum trees so I asked Google and it said "don't prune plums," but I did because fruit out of reach is only good for wasps. My problem then was getting rid of cuttings, as the green bin was full again. Meanwhile, all the cutting back of last year's dead



flower stems was neglected and I was left with droopy fronds and an uncared-for lawn.

I am encouraged by good winter things. When we had the cold spell before Christmas, 6 resident black-birds feasted all day on my neighbours' unpicked apples. Then a flock of hungry fieldfares arrived and ousted the residents and, together with a pair of red wings, spent a week eating every last apple.



On 2nd January, I was admiring my sweet-scented winter honeysuckle (*fragrantissima*) which was covered in tiny lemon flowers when I saw a bumble bee enjoying the nectar. I also have a growing patch of pink and white cyclamen that has extended into the field next door. The first snowdrops are now in flower and others are poking through the ground. The Christmas roses are flowering and Lenten rose shoots are appearing. I have a bank of primroses in flower on a south



facing slope. I have bought lots of seeds for the coming season and it will not be long before I can start planting indoors.

On a different topic, I am a self-taught gardener with knowledge learned from parents and father-in-law and Gardeners' World. Others amongst us are much more knowledgeable and I would welcome advice and feedback. Is anyone willing to start a letter response to my gardening notes for the next gazette? I look forward to hearing from you.



Mrs Blossom

I never knew that about England

I have many books which have been started, and discarded unfinished - not a lot hit the spot and lure me into long or even medium-term commitment. I often find that I just can't justify giving them the time, so, as an alternative, books that tell me little bits about lots of things, can make for very satisfying, dipping in, reading. One such book is *I never knew that about England*, by Christopher Winn. And here's one of the little things I've gleaned from this delightful book - it's rich pickings so more may creep into future Gazettes.

In the entry about Worcester,

"Perhaps the best-known product to come out of Worcester is Lea & Perrins Sauce, made from a recipe brought back from India in 1835 by a former Governor of Bengal, the third Lord Sandys. He gave two Worcester chemists, John Lea and William Perrins, the recipe to a spicy concoction he had grown partial to

during the time of the Raj, and asked them to brew him up a large batch. Unfortunately, the results of their brewing were hugely disappointing; Lord Sandys announced that it 'tasted filthy,' Lea and Perrins stashed the unwanted brew in the cellar and forgot about it.

"Some months later, when they came to clear out the cellar, they decided to give the mixture a tentative sip before they threw it out, and to their joy and astonishment, it had matured into the spicy



condiment known and loved across the world today. They purchased the recipe from Lord Sandys and never looked back.



"The sauce is made today by the French-owned company, Danone, at a heavily guarded factory in the Midland Road, right next to Worcester Shrub

Lane Railway Station. The gates are barred and the public kept well away for fear of industrial espionage.”

I must admit, I'm a *Henderson's Relish* woman, myself.

Henry Henderson concocted his first batch of Relish in



1885, at his home at 44 Green Lane, Sheffield (50 years after Lea and Perrins, but still a long time ago). As a Sheffield girl I



was brought up on Henry's Relish. It's amazing on meat and potato pie.

Serendipity is searching for a needle in a haystack and instead finding the farmer's daughter.



That's probably the **WORST** idea since Hitler's dad said to Hitler's mum, "Come upstairs, Brunnhilde, I'm feeling saucy tonight."

Hugo Horton, in the Vicar of Dibley.

Scientists have discovered a noise which came just before the Big Bang. It sounds something like, "Ooops." ***Cully Abrell***

The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts.

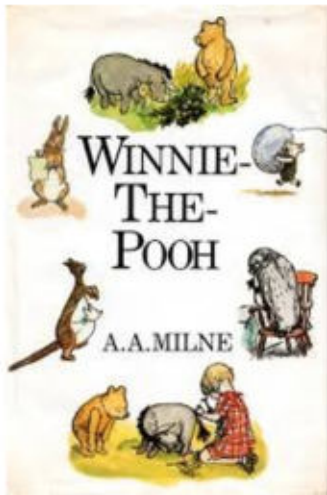
Paul Ehrlich

Preudhomme's Law of Window Cleaning? It's on the other side.

Winston Preudhomme

The easiest way to find something you've lost is to buy a replacement.

Rosenbaum's Law



Vive la difference

Mentioning parents' enjoyment of reading with their children in the Sheds article reminded me how much we delighted in reading Pooh stories to our son. I hadn't known them as a child, so it was a double blessing for me. Pooh and Piglet and Eeyore and Owl and Rabbit and Tigger and Christopher Robin became our very good friends - and they still are. For me, they're some of the most wonderful characters every created.

I was amused to come across an article which pondered our friends' character traits, and, in particular, their mental states, and suggested that most of them display something akin to a mental disorder. For example, Tigger clearly has ADHD, Eeyore is a depressive and Piglet has anxiety disorder. Rabbit is a bit obsessive, Pooh has an eating disorder and Owl is narcissistic. But, then, Piglet wouldn't be Piglet if he wasn't wimpy and scared of his own shadow. And most of us know what it means to feel "eeyorish" - how could it mean what it does if Eeyore was as frisky and bouncy as Tigger. And there are so many times when we're glad someone is being organising and a bit bossy - how else would some things get done? And although over active friends can sometimes be a bit exhausting, they can also be fun, and it wouldn't do to have only flat, dull, inactive friends, would it?



Being aware of and accepting sometimes odd character traits in the people around us is all part of the tolerance which makes the world go round happily. Pooh, in his dreamy, happy world, accepts and lives with every one of his friends' oddities.

Craft Group stops stitching - for a little Christmas treat

The Craft Group did do some stitching at its meeting in December, but it also enjoyed some delicious, homemade mince pies and little frangipanny, almond tarts, the sort that make you feel you need another one or two more - at the very least. We were hugely indebted to Ann Newcombe for her delicious baking. We think we may need a little Easter party as well.



The good news is that one panel has been completed. Only another 29 to go . . . and most of them are progressing nicely - slow but steady.

Sadly a member of the craft group, Jane Martin, died on 16 November, after a long illness. Jane was a wonderful embroiderer and was working on a picture for the Bakewell Time Line project right until the very end of her life. Jane was also a keen member of the theatre group. She was active in so many ways in Bakewell and will be missed by so many.

Gill Roberts

I don't believe it

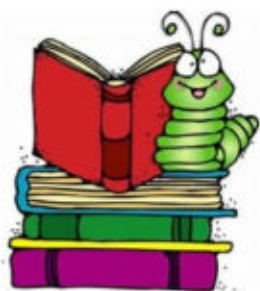
The Australian rugby team is being driven through Dublin. The driver calls out, "And if you look to your left you'll see we're going past the biggest pub in the city". A voice from the back shouts, "WHY!"

A penguin walks into a bar and asks the barman, "Have you seen my brother in here?"

"I don't know," replies the barman, "what does he look like?"



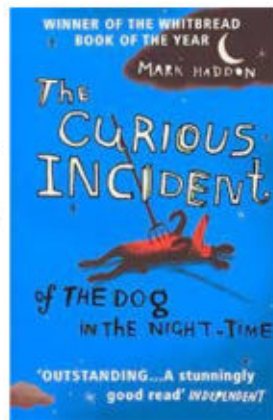
A new group that's thriving



Book Group, second Tuesday of the month, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, goes from strength to strength, gaining a new member every time we meet. We're reading a startling array of books, and getting an equally startling array of responses to them. Since our first book, Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Sleeping Giant*, every book has been met with a mix of 'I loved it,' 'I really didn't like it,' 'I've read it before but I don't remember it,' 'I

learnt a lot from it' (most people said this about Linda Grant's *The Dark Circle*, a story dealing with TB in post war England) and 'it was so good I read it twice'. Perhaps most rewarding is hearing someone who has really understood a book explaining a part of it they really liked, and someone who struggled with the book finally 'getting it'.

January's book was *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time* by Mark Haddon. Written in 2003 in the first person, the protagonist is a 15 year old boy, brilliant at maths, but with other learning and relationship challenges. In the book, Christopher sets out to solve a mystery that no one else seems to be interested in solving and, on the way, discovers that his life is not all that his father would have him believe. It is a book about Christopher, but most of all, it is a book about relationships and trust, and what happens when that trust is broken.



The writing is simple but beautiful and, whilst Mark Haddon does not claim to be an expert of Aspergers or autism, it certainly portrays, in a very sympathetic way, the characteristics of someone very different to the rest of the people Christopher encounters.

So what do we do at Book Group? We talk about the book we have assigned ourselves, what we have liked and disliked, what we

haven't understood, why we enjoyed the style or the story, where we found incongruities and irritations, and whether we would read anything else by that author. What we don't do is run through a list of prepared questions such as are sometimes found in the back of novels 'for book groups to discuss'. The book almost always makes someone think of something in their own lives, which triggers an altogether different conversation but with the rule that 'What gets said in Book Group stays in Book Group'.



We then break for tea and biscuits and come back together to hear something interesting someone has brought along. It can be a poem or a newspaper article - anything that has fired someone's imagination. We then discuss what we might like to read next. Anyone can have

an idea. We try to plan three months in advance to allow books to come into the library or be purchased, often from second-hand bookshops, either real or online shops such as *World of Books*. The programme is not entirely set in stone. We changed it recently because we had inadvertently chosen three books about death and dying and we thought that we needed to lighten up a bit. 33

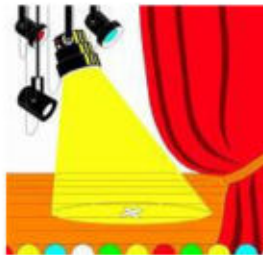
Meditations on Death has been put, temporarily, to one side.

Our book for February is the brilliant storyteller Tracy Chevalier's *Remarkable Creatures*, the story of fossil hunter, Mary Anning.



If this appeals, and you'd like to give us a try, please get in touch. Details are on the centre pages.





BAKEWELL U3A THEATRE GROUP

Back in March 2022 (is it really that long ago), we took advantage of Diana and Jan's marvellous organising for the Theatre Group, and joined the trip to Sheffield's Lyceum to watch our first ever ballet - *Casanova* by Northern Ballet. We were amazed how much we enjoyed it, it was magical. The athleticism and grace and lightness of the dancers, the ingenuity of the sets and changing scenes, the costumes - all of it made us so glad we'd been.

So, when another production by Northern Ballet was offered, we jumped at the chance and we've now paid to see *The Great Gatsby*, almost to the day, a year later. These photos are of the production we'll see in March.

Alisoun and Glenys

(Do you see what we mean about athleticism and grace?)



Standing at the Sky's Edge

Sheffield Crucible hosts the return of this award-winning musical before it transfers to the National Theatre, and at the beginning of the year our Theatre Group enjoyed a truly uplifting and memorable afternoon seeing this production. It was immensely satisfying to receive so many enthusiastic comments and observations on the ride home! "Fabulous production, could watch it all again". "Mesmerising! Opportunities to both laugh and cry." "Tremendously powerful!" "A clever intertwining of the different decades." "Extremely powerful voices and music. The warmth and friendliness of Sheffield came across." "Very clever, and extremely well performed." "Such an original idea. Brilliant!"

Standing at the Sky's Edge is a spectacular celebration of the steely Sheffield spirit. Park Hill flats has been an imposing and iconic part of Sheffield's skyline for over 60 years, and makes the perfect setting for a musical with a cross-generational look at post-war idealism, class and the changing fortunes of the poorest in society. What happened at Park Hill is a microcosm of what happened throughout the cities of Britain.



With an intelligent, poignant and exceptionally well-written script, the songs are filled with both sadness and humour, and cleverly marry together the whole production. And, of course, the real reason for this

remarkable musical achievement lies in the Park Hill flats themselves, occupied for 60-odd years with such an interesting myriad of people.

What strikes the audience is how complicated, yet how well-coordinated the show is. Given the task of working with Richard Hawley's songs (he was born and grew up in Sheffield), writer Chris Bush (aka Sheffield's own Shakespeare) has skilfully woven together three stories involving people who live in the same flat, each moving on in time through the four acts, with two on either side of the interval. A triumphal achievement.

Continued overleaf



**More Gardens
Group news -
continued
from Page 36**

Working in the
Arcadia Garden

Tuesday, 28 March. With thoughts of Spring on the horizon we will visit Chatsworth. It will be interesting to see how the new planting in Arcadia looks in Spring and, of course, have a cup of tea.

MEET at 2.00 pm outside the Upper Garden Entrance.

COST for members and non members will be circulated later; also details of a possible Group Guided Tour.

NAMES to Gill Roberts, Tel 01629813414, gill@kimberwood.net

A visit to **Bridgewater** (by popular request) is being organised for May. More details later!

Sheila Sidebottom



Our next outing is on 23 March, to Northern Ballet's production of *The Great Gatsby* at Sheffield Lyceum Theatre. Tickets have already been allocated but we do have a waiting list in case of cancellation. □ **Diana Macbain**

Jan: 01629 812960 Email:
jchappell7@btinternet.com

Diana: 01298 873503 Email:
dcmacb@aol.com

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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Vacant

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Database Co-ordinator

Phil Clarke 01629 630095
bakewellu3adba@outlook.com

Membership Secretary

Groups Secretary

Website Manager

Committee Members

Judy Hinsliff 01629 650119
Jean Sutton 01433 639713
Pam Walker 07786 245406

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

Websites: www.bakewellu3a.org.uk or www.u3a.org.uk

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

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

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Vacant

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Sheila Sidebottom 01629 814842



Gardens, Houses and Art Group Winter and Spring

Tuesday, 14th February. As usual, 2.30 pm, for chat and tea and biscuits, with a 3.00 pm start, at the Friends' Meeting House. Jean Sutton has arranged for Danny Wells to talk to us about the fascinating life of **Joseph Paxton, gardener, engineer and designer.**

This will be the last speaker in our Winter Programme. Thank you to all who have helped to make it a success - speaker finders and tea makers.

Please will 2 people volunteer to make tea at this meeting? Tel 01629814842 or email me with offers - s.sidebottom2017@gmail.com

I will, of course, be asking for "speaker finders" for October, November 2023, and January, February 2024. There is a folder with suggested people, which I will bring to the meeting. It is the willingness of Group members to share responsibility for running different aspects of the Group's activities that makes it a success.

Continued on Page 38