

### **The beginning of the website.**

I remember sitting in the hall at the inaugural meeting, hearing Peter Shannon speak of his vision for the group. He wanted a website, something that would promote the Group, provide information for prospective members, and be a contact point for existing members. This was something I could do, so at the end of the meeting I spoke to Peter and volunteered. I had no idea how big the website would become.

By 5<sup>th</sup> November I had had time to learn the basics of the u3a SiteBuilder online software, and Peter, Susan and I had a meeting to discuss design, layout and contents. My task was to now to organise a domain name for the Group - [Becclesu3a.org.uk](http://Becclesu3a.org.uk); email accounts for the officers and potential group convenors – all with the suffix [.becclesu3a@gmail.com](mailto:becclesu3a@gmail.com) ; and, together with Peter and Susan, Sandy the Groups Co-ordinator, and Irene the Events Secretary, generate and edit content. By the time of the next monthly meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> November, the website was up and running.

Page visit statistics show that by the end of November the website had had a total of 1960 hits, and by the end of December twelve groups had their own group page.

The website expanded rapidly. Convenors were taught how to edit their own group pages, all of which had an email link to the convenor via the iconic Bird. There were photos of group activities – some of which made it onto the Home page. Many groups included links to their forthcoming meetings – a year's worth of walks, topics for Family History.

There was a full programme of visits and excursions for 2015; from Snowdrops in Redisham to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, from a tour of the Houses of Parliament to a tour of Adnams Brewery, there was even a proposed two day trip to the Isle of Wight.