

The GAZETTE



Issue No 95

August 2025

What a view to wake up to

And that's what members of our Walking Group did when they stayed at Derwentbank, near Keswick, on their 4-night walking break at this Holiday Fellowship house. Some of us think this is easily the best HF house to visit, with its proximity to Keswick, but the one above Coniston is pretty good, too. Judy Hinslif was there, and tells us all about it:

Well, we picked the right week, that's for sure. I don't think I have ever been in the Lake District in such glorious weather – *Continued on Page 6*





CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

AUGUST 2025

The summer season is in full flow. There is so much going on locally including the expansive and attractive Buxton Festival, whilst our own u3a group activities are proving appealing. The Gardens, Houses and Art group had a great visit to

Doddington; the Craft Group's very successful exhibition, "Stitches in Time," will shortly move from Bakewell Information Centre to a more permanent home in the Town Hall, the Chatsworth Group enjoyed Simon Seligman's presentation of "Debo" and, amongst many other Bu3a ventures, a newly formed scrabble group flourishes.

What was very obvious from the Debo lecture was the hugely positive impact which "Debo" had upon Chatsworth. She **was** "Chatsworth" - perhaps best epitomised by the Farm Shop which she instigated and championed, as a purveyor of local products. Yet, towards the end of her life, when living in Edensor as "Dowager Duchess," other changes were being introduced by the new Duke with fresh priorities. The Farm Shop stocked a wider range of products including, much to Debo's consternation, "parmesan"!



Your committee has also seen changes, with a number of new faces arriving. David Hardman has been co-opted to become Vice Chair. Richard Tucker replaces Sam Lewis as Secretary, and

Bernard McMahon has joined with a marketing portfolio. All three roles remain to be confirmed at the next AGM. I am extremely grateful to these “volunteers” for their help in serving the best interests of Bu3a. Additionally, it is comforting to know that Sam remains a committee member, and that his considerable expertise, knowledge and generosity will still be available to us.

New faces on the committee bring new perspectives to challenge the way we do things. With this in mind, David (H) will chair an Action Group looking at how best to recruit new members, and ensure we keep the ones we have. Without wanting to predict the group’s recommendations, they are likely to suggest some change in the way we do things - otherwise there is little point in the exercise. There is always going to be tension between those who believe that the old ways are right and should be preserved, and those who feel the need for change.

That is the nature of life: I am just heading off to the Farm Shop with my wife, Iris, and in particular, to the cheese counter. Iris particularly loves the local Dovedale Blue, whilst I can’t wait to sample the gorgonzola. Of course, each will share with the other.



**Peter Holt
Chair Bu3a**



Just a reminder that

**Youlgrave Cinema starts again
in September. Film choices
are being discussed but won’t be decided
in time for this issue.**



Phone 01629 636477 for more information.



Editor's Ponderings

Having just completed another hoovering of my walls and ceilings and corners and hidden places, I'm irritated yet again by those thin, lanky, gangling, dangling spiders who don't know how to spin a PROPER web. They create long, hanging, dusty strands all over the walls and ceilings, everywhere, around chairlegs, inside shelves, behind curtains, all over windows, everywhere. They're the spiders which, if disturbed, go into a spin, gyrating madly. I have a very high upper landing, and found a strand about four feet long, hanging in thin air from the ceiling.

Proper webs are beautiful, and I'm full of admiration for the sturdy, solid little spiders who spin them. Coming across a web in the garden, early, with dew drops hanging from it, is a joy. My Dad brought us up to admire spiders, and recognise the essential job they do in catching flies and whatnot.



And my confession is that I vacuum up every one of the gangling ones I can find, because I detest the mess they create and the never ending work clearing up their mess.

I've lived in my house for over fifty years and I don't remember having to deal with these creatures years ago. I haven't been irritated by them for fifty years. I wonder when they invaded my house.

Ed

MLT

Another Meg Laird gathering
Wednesday, 29 October, 2 pm for 2.15 pm
Medway Centre, Bakewell

Victorian Sewerage

Mike Higginbottom lectures in social and architectural history for many universities, for WEA and NADFAS. Your ML/Social Team loved the idea of this talk - something completely different, we thought. We hope you'll agree. And here's a bit of information to whet your appetite . . .

London's growth in the nineteenth century created a public-health crisis: its increasing population drawing water and emptying its drainage into the River Thames caused epidemics which only diminished after a controversial campaign to provide clean water supply and a system of main drainage.

The Metropolitan Board of Works' engineer, Joseph Bazalgette, improved the physical appearance and quality of life in London more than any other individual in his generation.

In the process of engineering the healthy sanitary condition which later generations take for granted, the politicians, managers and designers of the nation's water-supply and sewerage systems left a wealth of high-quality buildings and gigantic engineering works across the country.

Non-members are most welcome. Entrance £3



**And, of course,
there's cake**



no need for waterproof gear, no boots caked in mud. What was required was sun screen, and hats to keep off the sun, not the rain.

Members of the full group chose from two walks each day, one short, one longer. These were the longer ones: on the Tuesday five members walked around Derwentwater, just over 9 miles. The path followed the lake shore for most of the time, with superb views to all the



surrounding hills. There was a variety of boats on the water, paddle boards, canoes, rowing boats and the launch which tours the lake. Next day six members drove to Rosthwaite, and did a circular walk going up Borrowdale where a cuckoo was heard. Near the end of the walk the path narrowed, and went across a short rock face, for which chains were provided to hold onto - an interesting challenge for all.



The last day, again a group of six drove to Buttermere, and walked around the lake in perfect, still, sunny weather. Walkers tried the old sport of stone spinning across the water, and were amused to see a very determined sheep, pretending to be a goat, standing on its hind legs to reach some tasty, fresh chestnut leaves. This lovely walk finished with a well-earned drink in Buttermere.

And the shorter walks: on Tuesday a group of six set out from Buttermere, in perfect Spring weather, to do one of my all-time favourite walks, clockwise round the lake, about 5 miles, which has everything . . . wonderful views, cuckoos calling, shore and woodland walking and, best of all, an ice cream van half way round and a cafe at the end, not to mention loos!!

There was much discussion about the next day's walk - with the temperature rising it was thought walkers needed shade. The chosen walk, directly from the hotel and onto Catbells flank, descended to Derwentwater to follow the lakeside path at the southern end of Brandelhow. Once again there was a welcome ice cream van halfway – and our walkers were able to give the vendor instructions on how to get to Alfreton, where he was to pick up a dog! Later in the walk were



more refreshments, at the lovely Lingholm gardens (well, we had just done another 5 miles) and so back to base.

The third day was even hotter so – further discussion to find a shady route.

One of the group was lost to a theatre visit but the remaining five started out from Rosthwaite and walked, mainly in leafy shade, into Borrowdale and back to - guess where - the very welcome Flock Inn, not really an inn but a very lovely tea shop that has been there forever, it seems. The perfect end to three lovely walks. I don't think we ended up heavier than we started on day one, but it wasn't from lack of trying! One has to refuel, you know, and our spending was definitely good for the Lakeland economy . . .

At this point I have to admit that when I booked my holiday last year I was fit and felt pretty good for my age. But last Autumn I developed a slipped disc which has made walking difficult and painful. Proper walking' is completely out of the question. There were three in our

Photo above is Lingholm walled garden with long roof of the rather lovely cafe showing above the wall. Close to Derwentbank House. Highly recommended.

Ed

group not joining the ‘proper’ walks, but we found plenty to entertain us, particularly the discovery nearby of Mirehouse, a delightful small manor house on the banks of Bassenthwaite Lake, which has been in the Spedding family since the early 1800s, and remains their family home. The ground floor is open to the public and in the spacious Drawing Room is a grand piano with a resident pianist – and chairs for visitors to sit awhile and enjoy the music.

Apart from the walking, there’s also the pleasure of the social side, not to mention the food! On arrival there’s the famous cream tea and a chance to settle in. Then the evening meal – three courses, tea, coffee and mints, followed by planning the walks for Day One.



The day starts with a hearty breakfast, collecting your copious packed lunch (pre-ordered the night before) which is ready and waiting for you, and everyone sets off for their chosen walk. At the end of the day, a quick shower and then downstairs for a well-earned drink in the bar, discussing the day’s events and putting the world to rights, then dinner. The dining room tables are usually set for eight people and you choose where to sit – maybe with friends, or perhaps with new people who could become new friends.



After dinner there may be entertainment and, of course, there is the weekly quiz, which all HF houses take part in – on the same day, at the same time, and with the same questions. All good fun – even if, this time, it was not one of our group’s teams which won!

So, all in all, it was a really successful holiday and many thanks are due to George and Rosemary Wolfe for undertaking to pick up from Annie Kayley-Burgess who made the original booking, even though she and Jane were not actually able to join us. *Judy Hinslif*

A longish article about the Walking Holiday, but I thought aspects of it, particularly the walk descriptions, might awaken lovely memories for many of us. And showing something of Derwentbank, the HF House, may lead to some of us discovering it as a holiday venue - well worth thinking about. You don't have to be a walker to stay there. Ed

What does “Meg Laird Talks” mean?

At more than one meeting recently, the point has been made that the title, “Meg Laird talks,” may be a mystery to our newer members. Most older members know that Meg was our main “Founder,” the Bakewell resident who decided that Bakewell and surrounding area needed a u3a branch. Along with a group of like-minded residents, she set about calling a public meeting. This was all back in February, 1998, when Meg wrote, in her first letter to the new members:

“We’re off the ground! The BAKEWELL AREA U3A is really on the way! At the

Inaugural meeting on 18th February, 105 people joined as members. Since then more have come in and at the time of writing we have 122

members. We also

(Continued overleaf)



Bakewell u3a Committee, February 1998

have 5 more leaders offering to run groups, so there are now over 20 groups.”

Meg also makes the point that the membership was drawn more from the surrounding area than from Bakewell, itself.

Bu3a’s existence has to be largely credited to Meg’s initiative, energy, enthusiasm and tenacity - finding leaders for new groups was almost a crusade for her, and members found it very difficult, if not impossible, to say “no” to Meg.

So - back to the Meg Laird Talks. When we first had the idea of regular, quarterly talks, aimed at bringing members together beyond the groups they were attending, everyone on the Talks Committee liked the idea of honouring our founder, Meg.



So the Meg Laird Talks were born, and so was the group which organised them. Now, the Meg Laird Team is joined with the Social Team, and is responsible for organising 4 talks, a December Jazz get-together, a Christmas meal, and the Charity Coffee Morning - 7 events in all.

In the photo, Meg is on the front row, second from the right.

Details of the **next Meg Laird Talk** are on Page 5, and our **Christmas Meal** is described on the page opposite.

Our **afternoon of Jazz** will be on Wednesday, 10 December, with more detail in the November Gazette.

And on Page 14, there’s a **request for one or two members** to contemplate the possibility of joining the Meg Laird/Social Team. We don’t expect to be killed in the rush, but just one or two would be very nice.

ML/Social Team

This is not a book to be tossed aside lightly - it should be thrown with great force.

Dorothy Parker

Whenever I write for the Times Educational Supplement, I feel I ought to be wearing a knitted tie.

David Sexton



Christmas is coming - though not just yet

It can't be that time of year already, I hear you say - and, you're right, it isn't. Except that we don't have another Gazette till November, by which time it WILL be almost that time of year again.

Many of us have enjoyed our pre-Christmas get togethers over lunch, at various local restaurants, and this time,

your Meg Laird/Social Team has chosen the Orangery at St Elphin's. It's a delightful room, beautifully furnished, with quite an opulent feel. It's not overlarge and will seat 30 of us very nicely.

At the time of going to print, the Restaurant hasn't finalised its Christmas offerings, but the Manager assures me there will be a Turkey Dinner, a fish alternative and also a vegetarian alternative, as well as delicious pud offerings. Nor has a price been determined. All of which makes it a bit difficult for members to commit to coming along to enjoy this event. However, all we ask at the moment is that you express an interest by emailing gazette@bakewellu3a.org.uk, or phoning 01629 636477, and as soon as we receive final details, they can be passed on to everyone and we can take it from there. The Meg Laird/Social Team looks forward to hearing from lots of you.



Happy Christmas!

THE BELL FOUNDRY (Taylor's) in Loughborough - A Visit/Trip Tuesday, 2 September



Classic Tour of the Foundry, also visiting the Museum and shop. Step into the UK's last working bell foundry and see history and craftsmanship come alive, as they cast bells for churches, cathedrals and customers worldwide.

Cost of Tour: £15 per person.
Cost of Coach: £19 per person
(factoring in a tip for the driver). **Total Cost £34**

The coach will leave Slack's Coach Park at Upper Lumsdale, Matlock at 8.30 am and return to Matlock around 4.30 pm.

Please send a cheque for £34.00, payable to Mrs I Yarnell, to:

Irene at 8 High Ridge, Cavendish Park, Matlock, DE4 3HP. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address.

The tour of the factory will last for ninety minutes and there will then be an opportunity to visit the Museum and Gift Shop. The lady I spoke to at the Foundry suggests we wear sensible shoes. We are told there is no café on site but we hope to be transported into Loughborough at some point, allowing time there for whatever people would like to do.

If you have any queries Irene can be reached on 01629 584481 Mobile 07949189103 or email contacts@bakewellu3a.org.

The tour can accommodate thirty people, and I have reserved a 33 seater coach from Slacks. I hope the brief details here will have whetted your appetite. If you are interested in history it may well have done so.

Irene Yarnell

Debo, a legend, fondly remembered


How lucky we were to attend the Chatsworth group meeting and hear Simon Seligan's talk on Debo, the late Duchess of Devonshire. Simon had known 'Debo' since his early twenties when he wrote to the Duchess 'wondering' if there were any jobs available over the summer holiday . . . initially there weren't, but a few weeks later Debo wrote offering him a temporary job - welcoming visitors, car park attendant, cleaning the toilets . . . leading Simon to realise just how important first impressions for a visitor to a stately home were, and he eventually became a permanent employee and a friend of the Duchess.



He went on to talk about Debo's upbringing, her meeting with Andrew, who became her husband, and how their lives changed when Andrew's brother was killed during the war, leaving Andrew heir to the Dukedom. Sadly, the Duke died suddenly, so that Andrew and Debo had to take over the reins of running Chatsworth . . . and deal with the huge debt of estate duties it entailed.

He showed such interesting slides of the innovations they made to Chatsworth, from the shop in the house, the wonderful farm shop, the farm yard, opening the house for Christmas, and so much more. taking Chatsworth to the forefront of visitor experiences for all stately homes.


For many in the audience who knew Debo, and some who had worked at Chatsworth, it was an almost moving experience. ***Gill Roberts***

	Bakewell & District Community Choir
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**A Concert
in aid of
Parkinsons Group**

**Saturday, 13 September, 7.30 pm
Bakewell Town Hall**

**Please come along,
the last one we did was great fun. Tickets £10**



Keep an eye open for new neighbours?



Watch out 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. Or you could invite them to a Meg Laird talk or to try out a Group meeting. Email email.the.gazette@googlemail.com

YOUR COMMITTEE IS KEEN TO DO MORE - CAN YOU HELP?

There's been a lot of chat over the months about the possibility of creating more opportunities for members to meet socially, and enjoy getting to know people beyond the boundaries of the groups we attend. This is one of the aims of the talks the Meg Laird/Social Team organises on a quarterly basis, as well as the Charity Coffee Morning, the pre-Christmas Jazz event, and the Christmas Lunch. Your Committee would love to hear from you all with suggestions for other events which might be organised to enjoy together.

And on the topic of organising events, the Meg Laird/Social Team could do with a couple of new members. As a group, we're extremely relaxed and friendly, duties are definitely not heavy or onerous, meetings are over good coffee and cookies, but we really do need a few members to come forward and offer to join us, bring new ideas, a bit of cake baking, the odd bit of washing up, along with some fun and laughter.



PLEASE consider becoming one of our team. Email email.the.gazette@googlemail.com, and offer to join us. Thank you,

Annette Dwyer-Joyce has been a member of the Meg Laird/Social Team for a long time now, and is stepping down to take a well-earned rest. Very many thanks to Annette for her comradeship, baking, washing up, and support over the years.

Meg Laird/Social Team



Walking Programme August - December 2025

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. Please check your emails on the day of the walk in case of change of plans.**

MONDAY WALK

Week 2 – Monday. A walk of 3 to 4 miles at a gentle pace. Picnic lunch in summer and cafe or pub lunch in winter.

**Organiser:
Sue Fordyce**



Dates: Mondays -
11 August, 8 Sept,
13 October,
10 November,
8 December



Details of our Group Activities - August 2025

Please refer to Group web pages for more information, bakewell.u3asite.uk

Subject	Co-ordinator	Phone	Meeting day	Time	Location
A sense of history	Vicki Clements	Phone numbers removed due to GDPR privacy issues.			history@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Ancient Trackways	Helen Parker		3 rd Monday	10 - 12 noon	ancient.tracks@bakewellu3a.org.uk Great Longstone Village Hall
Art	Linda Fussey		2 nd Thursday	2 - 4 pm	art@bakewellu3a.org.uk Youlgrave Reading Room
Big Issues	John Hooper		3 rd Thursday	10 - 12 noon	bigissues@bakewellu3a.org.uk Various homes
Birding Short Walks	Jane Burgess		1 st Tuesday	Am	birding@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Bowling	Mary Creswell		Tuesdays April - Sept	10 - 12 noon	bowling@bakewellu3a.org.uk Bakewell Bowling Club
Book group	Jane Kayley-Burgess		2 nd Tuesday	2 - 4 pm	book.group@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell
Bridge	Trish Simmonds		Every Thursday	1.30 - 4.30 pm	bridge@bakewellu3a.org.uk Medway Centre
Chatsworth Group	Peter Holt				chatsworth@bakewellu3a.org
Cooking by Men	Ainslie Kelly		2 nd Tuesday	5.30 - 7.30 pm	Lady Manners School cooking.by.men@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Craft	Gill Roberts		2 nd Wednesday	2 - 4 pm	craft@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends Meeting House
Environment Group	Helen Parker			environment@bakewellu3a.org.uk	

Subject	Co-ordinator	Phone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Gardens & Houses	Sheila Sidebottom Viv Stephenson	Phone numbers removed due to GDPR privacy issues.	Various Tuesday visits	Winter, 3 rd Tues, 3pm	gardens.and.houses@bakewellu3a.org.uk
History Through Art	Helen Parker				
Luncheon Club	Anne Peller		1 st Wednesday	Need you ask?	Various restaurants
Nomadic 12/12 lunch	Angus Stokes		12 th of month	12 noon	nomaadiclunches@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Sam Lewis		2 nd Wednesday	10.00 - 12 noon	philosophy@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Photography	Neil Sharples Allen Flatman		1 st Friday	10.00 - 12 noon	photography@bakewellu3a.org.uk Bakewell Parish Church
Poetry	Anne Gould		2 nd Tuesday	2.00 pm	poetry@bakewellu3a.org.uk 3 Brookside, Bakewell
Keep using your French	Liz Gelanos		4 th Monday	2.30 - 4.30 pm	french@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Ros Stokes		4 th Friday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Friends Meeting House
Sketching for fun	John Hooper		1 st Thursday	1.45 - 4.00 pm	sketching@bakewellu3a.org.uk, Rowsley Village Hall
Social team and Meg Laird team					
Spanish	Jayne Northcott		Alternate Tuesdays	2.30 pm	Upstairs at Chakra Lounge, Bakewell
Walking	Jane Burgess		See programme in the Gazette	Email: walking@bakewellu3a.org.uk	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young		3 rd Wednesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	writingforpleasure@bakewellu3a.org.uk

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

Dates: Wednesdays -
6 August, 3 September,
1 October, 4 November,
3 December



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

Organiser: David Thornton

Dates: Thursdays: 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November
11 December

Week 3 - Friday, 4 miles at a gentle pace. Pub or cafe lunch.

Organiser: Rosemary Wolfe

Dates: Fridays: 22 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November

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

Organiser: Neil Sharples

Dates: Wednesdays -
27 August, 24 September,
22 October, 26 November



Calling all Crafters



Members of the Craft Group have been extremely grateful to Gill Roberts for her leadership of this group over many years. In particular, we have two creations which pay testimony to her imaginative approach, as well as her leadership and ability to get things moving, keep them moving, and finally get them done. Of course, the two are the Millennium embroidery housed in the Medway Centre,

and, very recently, the Stitches in Time embroideries, now being displayed in Bakewell Town Hall. No one can argue with the fact that Gill deserves a well-earned rest, and she is ready to hand over, and hopeful that someone will take up the reins of the Craft Group in the near future.

The Craft Group will begin again on

**Wednesday, 10 September, 2.00 pm
in the Friends Meeting House**

No one will be surprised to hear that we have quite a lot of wool left over from the work on the embroideries. Our first meeting will be led by Helen Wilson, who will show us how to do Bargello Work - a good way to use up the spare wool, apparently.

It would be such a pity to see the Craft Group fold, and many of us would like to continue attending, but we do need to come up with ideas for future activities, and for someone to take the lead. No one denies that Gill is a hard act to follow, but we don't have to do anything over ambitious - we just need some crafty ideas.

Let's look forward to a good meeting, and a chance to share ideas, on **Wednesay, 10 September, Friends Meeting House.**

Cookery Corner



Date Crunchies

8 oz flour
4 oz rolled oats
3 oz sugar
5 oz butter
12 oz dates
Grated rind of a lemon
2 -3 tablespoons of water



Place flour, sugar and oats in a bowl. Melt butter and add to the dry ingredients. Mix well.

Chop the dates, put with lemon rind into a saucepan, add water and heat until mixture is soft. Allow to cool.

Spread half the oat mixture over the bottom of a shallow tin, about 11 x 7 inches, greased. Press down firmly, and spread the date mixture over the oats. Sprinkle the rest of the oat mixture on top.

Bake at 180 degrees, Gas mark 5, for about 30 minutes.

Remove from the oven, allow to cool slightly and cut into pieces, size to suit your appetite.

Irene Yarnell

NB A friend makes something very like this as a speciality, and they're delicious. Ed



THE DELIGHTS OF SHARING

We recently exchanged visits to each other's gardens, and found great pleasure in

sharing the delight we each feel in our gardens. And chatting about them over coffee and a biscuit. Particularly when one lives alone, it's possible not to have anyone (on a regular basis) to do the sharing with.

And that led us to wondering whether there are other members who don't have the chance to share their gardens as often as they'd like. And whether there are some members who'd like to.

If so, we might be able to create a new Bu3a Group, "Sharing our gardens". We thought -

- * That group size would have to be limited.
- * That it might meet late Spring to early Autumn.
- * That it will simply be about sharing gardening joy, in all its forms.
- * That those interested could meet to iron out other details.

If you might be interested, do email your interest to email.the.gazette@gmail.com, or phone 01629 636477



Alison Stuart and Glenys Moore



MRS BLOSSOM HANGS UP HER WELLIES



Seasons follow with regularity if not predictability. Each year I look eagerly for the first snowdrop, the first daffodil, tulip and rose and so on. I

have followed the seasons in the notes from my garden for a number of years now and feel that I am, inevitably, becoming repetitive and that it is time for another garden enthusiast to bring a fresh view. I am therefore hanging up my wellies (and pen).

So its happy gardening to all my readers, and let's hope we can continue to enjoy the rest of a long hot summer.



Mrs Blossom



Some new ideas

There are, however, some new ideas afloat for garden enthusiasts in Bakewell u3a. A possible new group is being suggested, for a small numbers of us who love our gardens and would like to share them with others over the summer months. This idea is, no doubt, being mentioned elsewhere in this edition of the Gazette.

I have also become aware that we have many members who love their gardens, which are so varied, from small courtyard gardens, to sprawling ones on steep banks, to raised vegetable beds or cottage gardens. We have a volunteer who has offered to approach members and ask if they are willing to talk about their

gardens, for an article to appear in the Gazette. SO, don't be surprised if you are invited to be the first to talk about your garden for the November edition. Alternatively you may volunteer; why not approach the Editor.

And I want to say a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Blossom for her willingness to share her garden love over many issues of the Gazette. Members have enjoyed her lovely laidback style, her gardening wisdom, and her willingness to share her failures as well as her many successes. From my point of view, she has been enthusiastic and efficient, always delivering on time, always bringing interest to her subject.



Ed

*When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one. **Leonard Matlovitch***

*Obesity is now a problem in the navy. They've created a new rank - Really Big Rear Admiral. **David Letterman***

*Everyone in public life should be arrested at least once. It's an education. **Alan Clark***

*A lawyer is someone who writes a 10,000 word document and calls it a brief. **Franz Kafka***

*I was rejected for the Diplomatic Corps. I was wisely seen as unsuitable. **Jeremy Paxman***

*One day the "don't knows" will get in, and then where will we be? **Spike Milligan***

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

By William Butler Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to
Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay
and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a
hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there,
for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the
morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and
noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's
wings.

I will arise and go now, for always
night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low
sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on
the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Return to Sorrento (3rd class)

By Spike Milligan

“I must go down to the sea again,
To the lonely sea and the sky;
I left my vest and socks there –
I wonder if they're dry.”



August

By John Updike

The sprinkler twirls, the summer
wanes, the pavement wears
Popsicle stains.
The playground grass is worn to
dust, the weary swings creak creak
with rust.
The trees are bored with being
green.
Some people leave the local scene
and go to seaside bungalows and
take off nearly all their clothes.

Midsummer, Tobago

By Derek Walcott

Midsummer, Tobago
Broad sun-stoned beaches.

White heat.
A green river.

A bridge,
scorched yellow palms
from the summer-sleeping
housedrowsing through August.

Days I have held,
days I have lost,
days that outgrow, like
daughters,
my harbouring arms.

poetry

Apples

By Laurie Lee

Behold the apples' rounded worlds:
juice-green of July rain,
the black polestar of flowers, the rind
mapped with its crimson stain.

The russet, crab and cottage red
burn to the sun's hot brass,
then drop like sweat from every
branch
and bubble in the grass.

They lie as wanton as they fall,
and where they fall and break,
the stallion clamps his crunching jaws,
the starling stabs his beak.

In each plump gourd the cidery bite
of boys' teeth tears the skin;
the waltzing wasp consumes his share,
the bent worm enters in.

I, with as easy hunger, take
entire my season's dole;
welcome the ripe, the sweet, the
sour,
the hollow and the whole.

I mustn't go down to the sea again

By John Cooper Clarke

sunken yachtsmen
sinking yards
drunken Scotsmen
drinking hard
every lunatic and his friend
i mustn't go down to the sea
again

the ocean drags
its drowning men
emotions flag
me down again
tell tracy babs and gwen
i mustn't go down to the sea
again

the rain whips
the promenade
it drips on chips
they turn to lard
i'd send a card if i had a pen
i mustn't go down to the sea
again

a string of pearls
from the bingo bar
for a girl
who looks like ringo starr
she's mad about married men
i mustn't go down to the sea
again

GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART

SUMMER/AUTUMN PROGRAMME



NB The visit to Biddulph Grange will not take place. Only 10 people were interested, sorry to those of you who signed up.

Here's an alternative, quite local, visit to consider.

Private visit to an NGS garden, 27 Wash Green, Wirksworth, DE4 4FD.

Date - Thursday, 21 August 2025.

Time - meet at the venue at 2 pm.

Cost is £10, to be paid to Mr & Mrs Harvey, the owners, on the day. Roam the garden, followed by tea/coffee and cake.

This is a large garden with outstanding views. There is an inner walled garden, colourful mixed borders, wildlife pond and a fruit and vegetable area. For more information google "NGS Garden 27 Wash Green".

If you are interested in this visit, please let me know by Friday, 15 August.



Email: gardens.and.houses@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Phone 01629 814842. Thank you.



START OF OUR AUTUMN/WINTER PROGRAMME

Time - 2.30 pm for coffee/tea
and a chat, with a 3.00 pm
start.

Tuesday, 21st October 2025

Sally Smith, an organic gardening consultant and teacher, from Birchover, will attempt to convince us that "There are no garden pests", (Gardening with Wild Life!).

Place The Friends' Meeting House, Chapel Lane, Bakewell.

Offers from "tea makers" for this event, please!

Sheila Sidebottom

When I'm on a plane, I can never get my seat to recline more than a couple of centimetres, but the chap in front of me - his seat comes back far enough for me to do dental work on him.

Ellen DeGeneres

There ought to be a requirement that crying babies have to go into the overhead compartment.

Bobby Slayton

Someone actually complimented my driving today. They left a note on the windscreen - it said, "Parking fine". **Tommy Cooper**

Careful what you wish for Dan is out walking when he

comes across a rusty old lamp. He picks it up, rubs it and out pops a genie. As is customary, the genie grants him 3 wishes. Dan says he'd like a million pounds, and, poof, a million pounds appears at his feet. "I'd like a new Mercedes," and, poof, his new car appears.

Finally, Dan says he wants to be irresistible to women. Poof, he turns into a box of chocolates.





Anyone who's been a Bakewell u3a member during the last 5 years, and who reads their Gazette with more than a passing interest, will have been on this journey too. It began in February 2020 when Gill Roberts' idea of a Bakewell Timeline in stitches took shape, with Sue Hudson agreeing to produce designs, from the Iron Age to present day - 30 of them. And in May 2020, our committee agreed to fund the project.

But, of course, lockdown got in the way, and the November 2020 Gazette detailed how Craft Group members were meeting in small groups in Gill's back garden to choose the designs they wanted to work on. Also detailed was the difficulty of washing 15 meters of calico, and how Hillsprings Laundry of Stoney Middleton came to Gill's aid, washing the calico free of charge.

Alan Reeves stepped forward with his woodworking skills and created frames for the embroideries to be attached to, for working on, and Nicola Hilton, a member of the Royal School of Needlework, agreed to be tutor to the embroiderers, some of whom had never done more than a few stitches.

We asked Bu3a members to sponsor the embroideries at £25, and lots of you did. The Local Projects Fund and Derbyshire Dales also

contributed towards the project, so the burden on Bu3a funds was less.



So with lots of enthusiasm, some or no skill, and a lot of determination, we got started. And as lockdown finally ended we met again and viewed the work done - showering each other with praise and admiration.

And they have taken years to complete, but we've ended up with 28 finished scenes, stretched and framed, and beautiful. In August 2023 the Gazette reported that the Rev Robert Parker, an ex Lady Manners pupil known to Gill, had agreed to fund framing the embroideries - a really generous offer, gratefully received.



They have been on display for over 4 months in the Bakewell Information Centre, following their grand launch into public life on Friday, 14 February. And on 23 July they were moved to their final resting place - Bakewell Town Hall - where they will live for the foreseeable future. We are all most grateful to the people at the Town Hall for liking our embroideries and making them so welcome.



They're off - Town Hall, here we come

And for the first time ever, Bakewell u3a has featured in the u3a national magazine, Third Age Matters, with a lovely article written by Jen Coffey, and photographs. Copies are available at the Library and the Information Centre (sent free of charge from Headquarters).



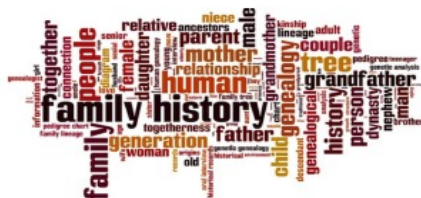
At the Town Hall - journey's end

We thought there was a possibility this might interest some of our members - who knows, it may lead to a new Bakewell u3a group? Ed

U3A PEAK DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Palace Hotel,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
SK17 6AG

Saturday 6th
September 2025



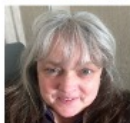
SPEAKERS

PLUS VARIOUS EXHIBITORS

Tickets £30
Includes Light Lunch, Refreshments
Free prize draw



Debbie Bradley -
Progressing Your Family History



Karen Evans -
Unlocking the secrets of DNA testing



Steve Gill -
Photographic Restoration and Conservation



Peter Threlfall and Judith Beastall -
Researching a War Memorial



QR CODE

For further information and to purchase a ticket go to our website
<https://peakdistrictnetwork.wixsite.com/familyhistory/about-5>
or scan the QR Code

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
chair@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Secretary

Richard Tucker
secretary@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Database Co-ordinator

Phil Clarke
database@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary

David Thornton
membership@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Committee Members

Pam Walker

Vice Chairman

David Hardman

Treasurer

Kath Hopkins
treasurer@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Gazette Editor

Glenys Moore
email.the.gazette@googlemail.com

Website Manager

Andy Roberts
web.admin@bakewell
U3A.e4ward.com

Ainslie Kelly (Liaising with Group Coordinators)
groups@bakewellu3a.org.uk

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

Website: bakewell.u3asite.uk

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 D Thornton, 2 Burton Closes Mews, Bakewell DE45 1AG

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