

The GAZETTE



Issue No 96 November 2025

THIS ALL SOUNDS SO EXCITING

“All the World’s a Stage, and all the men and women, merely players . . .”

He knew what he was talking about didn’t he?

Well, here’s your chance to play a more active role on your own stage, by joining the newly re-launched Bakewell u3a Theatre Group. We’re hoping to have our first meeting in November and you can sign up for the group by emailing theatre@bakewellu3a.org.uk.

Our aim is to have fun, to learn from local professionals and experts about the theatre, plays, playwrights and what’s involved in putting on a show;



and, of course, to go to the theatre to see plays and musicals in the flesh.



Theatre is one of the oldest art forms, tracing its roots back to ancient civilisations. From the ceremonial performances of ancient Egypt to

the grand amphitheatres of Greece and Rome, theatre has always

(Continues on pages 24/25, Theatre Group articles have always been towards the back of the Gazette, but this is FRONT PAGE news. Ed)



CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS NOVEMBER 2025

I like the u3a. It leads my learning into uncharted territory. Take “The Gorgeous Nothings,” the title of the 2025 Chatsworth House Exhibition, which had a floral, fauna and horticultural theme. The background to, and logic of, the exhibition, was given to the Bu3a Chatsworth Group by Louise Shannon, the Head of Learning and Engagement at Chatsworth. Louise explained that the title came from a few words written by nineteenth century America poet, Emily Dickinson, on the back of an envelope. In fact Dickinson frequently captured her poetic thoughts on recycled envelopes which she left lying around her home - much as I do with “to do” lists. These “Gorgeous Nothings” were eventually brought together and published posthumously, adding to her growing reputation as one of the most important figures in American poetry. Louise told us all this, and more, in an erudite account of the flora and fauna exhibits that lie around Chatsworth House, reflecting Dickinson’s “Gorgeous Nothings”.



Of course, being a member of Bu3a is not simply about learning. In fact, the results from our recent survey reinforced the view that most people value the social dimension of membership above all others. In my last piece I explained that your Bu3a Committee had established an “Action Group” (now the Membership and Engagement Action Group) to investigate members’ views and make recommendations which, when implemented, will add to the continued health of Bu3a. Many thanks are due to David Hardman, Bernard McMahon, Ainslie Kelly and David Thornton, who

have been driving this initiative. A summary of the responses can be found in a piece written by Bernard, on Pages 12 and 13. Our next action is to invite Group Leaders to participate in the process and contribute to the outcomes. Group Leaders make things happen and their involvement will be vital to the success of any changes.

Bu3a also needs new, younger members, to bring energy and fresh ideas, and build ongoing social networks. Of all possible new groups listed in the survey, interest in the theatre was mentioned more frequently, so it is great to see the potential re-emergence of a Theatre Group. This is explained in more detail as front page news, and Pages 24 and 25. Let's hope the interest reflected in the survey can be translated into a vibrant new group.

It is not surprising that the survey reinforced the fact that "word-of-mouth" between friends and family remains an important method of communicating with likely new



members. But this has to be reinforced by effective local publicity and readily available, relevant information. We need to make more use of our website and explore other possibilities to keep each other, and potential new members, well informed

In all of this it is important that Bu3a maintains close links with our local communities and I am pleased that the Craft Group will again be decorating a tree which will be displayed in the Bakewell Christmas Tree Festival. Do go along to see the tree. When doing so you might also call in the Town Hall to see the "Stitches in Time exhibition," which reflects Bakewell's communities.

It pretty much goes without saying that the biggest asset of Bu3a is its existing membership. So if you are reading this, please think of people you know who may benefit from joining us - maybe even write yourself a "Gorgeous Nothing," reminding you not to forget.

From your committee, and from me, a very happy Christmas and an equally happy New Year.

Peter Holt





Editor's Ponderings

I've always valued the Peak Advertiser and been glad that it's managed to continue for so many years, from its beginning in July 1982 (see its first issue). But I am now convinced that I haven't always given it the attention it clearly deserves.

You see, on certain occasions I DO like a relaxing coffee in my favourite coffee shop in Bakewell. And I DO have to have something to read, which will usually be my 3 times a week newspaper, collected from our Youlgrave Post Office before I set off. So, imagine my consternation on arriving at the cafe with nothing to read. However, a quick trip up the alley to the Library led me to the expected pile of Peak Advertisers - saved.



I settled down to a much more thorough reading of the PA, and in no time had brought out my trusty Sharpie to start marking items of interest. Like:

The Derbyshire Scriptwriters who perform their plays in Derby but would like to do so in our area, if they can find actors around here to work with.

Derbyshire 50+ Forums, right across Derbyshire with over 3,000 members, "forming a collective voice to ensure older people are heard on important topics". I've never heard of them. Anyone??

Group Activity Days offering Canoeing, Axe Throwing, Zip Wire, Caving (for under 25s, but I do wonder if they'd be willing to consider slightly older axe throwers).

All interesting stuff, so I shall definitely be reading my PA more thoroughly from now on.

Ed

MLT

**Another Meg Laird gathering
Wednesday, 10 December**

2.00 for 2.15 pm

Medway Centre, Bakewell

All that Christmas JAZZ

If you haven't attended one of our pre-Christmas Jazz sessions yet, you're missing out on a treat. It's good value at £3 for mulled wine and mince pie, the music is laid-back and relaxing, some of us have even been known to have a dance.

The Omega Jazz Band played for us very nicely last year. They say, "We play funky jazz music, with a bit of a twist for Christmas." So, what's not to like. Join us for a fun afternoon.

Non-members are most welcome.

Entrance £3

And, of course, there are mince pies



and mulled wine.





**Our next Meg Laird talk
Wednesday, 28 January
at the Friends Meeting House
Ashley Wilkes presents**

MY DERBYSHIRE LIFE



Ashley illustrates his work as a writer and photographer for **Derbyshire Life magazine**, looking back over 15 years of his popular monthly articles about towns and villages in Derbyshire. An

entertaining presentation packed with informative, fascinating and funny stories, and stunning photos - a wonderful celebration of our county. *(With some excellent testimonials.)*

'An inspirational talk . . . one of the best we've ever had' - Nottingham Centre of the National Trust.

'A fascinating photographic tour which shows our wonderful county at its finest' - Brailsford W.I.

'Of all the talks I've organised for our group, this was at the top' - Derby Wine Circle.

'A presentation delivered with passion and humour. The finest talk we've ever had' - Ashbourne Heritage Society.



**2.00 for 2.15 pm
start. £3 entrance.
Non-members are
most welcome,
bring a friend.
And there's CAKE.**

**And it's at the
FRIENDS MH**



Our Charity Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday, 21 January, 2.00 - 3.30 pm

at the Methodist
Church, Bakewell



It will soon be that time of year again, when we all become particularly charitable for an afternoon - and for a good cause - this time, for **Cancer**

Research. Last year we raised £568 for Parkinsons - to support the local group and national Parkinsons UK.

The format for the event is tried and tested - lots of you bring lots of items for us to sell, and lots of you buy lots of items, along with lots of raffle tickets. And between us we collect lots of cash for Cancer Research UK.

If you have something we could add to the raffle, please contact Gill Roberts, by emailing social.team@bakewellu3a.org.uk.

And you can all drink coffee or tea, munch biscuits, and chat with friends and acquaintance, to your hearts' contents.



We look forward to seeing lots of you at our annual Charity fund-raiser





Remember me?

It's that time of year again!

Hello, it's me again, popping up like a bad penny. I need you to make a determined effort to deal with paying your subs, on Thursday, 1st January 2026 (but not before that date, please), preferably by BACS online transfer (details below). This is definitely our preferred method. You can instead write out a cheque, payable to Bakewell Area u3a. And now - a bit more detail.

Full membership is £20 and Associate Membership is £16 for those of you who are members of another u3a, but only if you are sure that your other u3a pays your Third Age Trust subscription of £4.

Method 1 - Make a payment by BACS online transfer, bank details below, and include your **NAME** as the reference. Aim for the payment to leave your account on 1st January.

Bakewell Area u3a 60 - 01 - 33 12067954

Remember to use your name as the reference

Method 2 - Send a cheque dated 1st January 2026, payable to Bakewell Area u3a, with your **name/s on the back**, to:

David Thornton, 2 Burton Close Mews, Bakewell, DE45 1AG

You can send it early - it won't be banked until 1 January.

Method 3 - At the very latest, bring a cheque, your name on the back, in an envelope with your name on the front, to the **Coffee Afternoon at Bakewell Methodist Church Hall** **on Wednesday, 21 January 2026.**

Job done. Well done.



Christmas is coming - soonish



Back in August, you may remember that we hadn't received final details from the Orangery at St Elphin's for our pre-Christmas meal. However, a good number of you expressed interest, and you should by now have received the email with details, and may have sent in your menu choices and deposit - this time a very good menu, plenty of choice, the chance to have 3 courses, and a lower price than last year - so this year's meal promises to be a lovely occasion.

Places are limited and are booking up quickly. If you'd like to join us, email glenysannmoore@googlemail.com or phone 01629 636477 so that I can send you details.

Members of the Bu3a Luncheon Club agree that the Orangery is probably their favourite restaurant - it's a beautiful room, and they've enjoyed some very pleasant lunches there.



Calling all Crafters



As advertised in the last Gazette, the Craft Group met in September - the first proper meeting since the Bakewell Timeline Embroidery Project was completed. (The whole project, 28 panels, is now on permanent display in the Town Hall, so do visit if you haven't already seen it, and visit again if you have.

There always seems to be something new to catch the attention.)

Some members worked on their own embroidery projects and some did Bargello work with the plan to make phone or glasses cases. The Bargello work will go towards using up some of our surplus wool, from the embroidery project.

We always meet on the **second Wednesday of the month** and our next meeting will be on Wednesday,

12 November at **2.00 pm in the Friends Meeting House**. It was lovely to be together with friends again, chatting as we worked on our own projects . . . we even had cups of tea and biscuits! If any of you would like to join us, and perhaps have ideas for a craft project, do get in touch, email craft@bakewellu3a.org.uk.

Gill Roberts

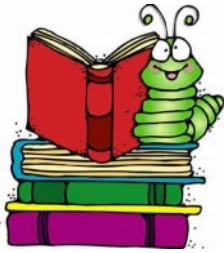
BARGELLO
NEEDLEPOINT



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

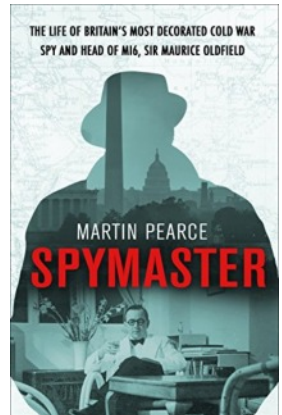


Bu3a Book Group

The Bakewell U3A book group meets at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the Friends' Meeting House.

We are always happy to receive suggestions as to what to read and over the few years we have been meeting have read a variety of genres. Of course, like all good book groups, we usually find a variety of opinions as to our enjoyment of the book in question but this makes for an enjoyable discussion which often strays from the book itself to related issues and topical matters.

At our most recent meeting we discussed **Spymaster by Martin Pierce**, a local lad who wrote about the life of his famous Uncle, Sir Maurice Oldfield, a prominent British intelligence officer. Maurice enjoyed a distinguished career in intelligence, was acquainted with so many famous people from all over the world and was in post during the infamous times of Burgess, Philby, Maclean and Blunt. His career was, however, overshadowed by speculation about his homosexuality, a matter which had a great deal more significance at the time as it was still illegal. The book presented a picture of the man as well as his achievements, and everyone enjoyed references to his local connections with Over Haddon, Lady Manners School and families still known to many today.



Pam Walker

The first porn book I wrote, I called "The House of Leather". I published it under the name of the headmaster who threw me out of prep school.

Fran Lebowitz

Not sure whether I've used this before, but just in case I haven't, here it is again. Ed

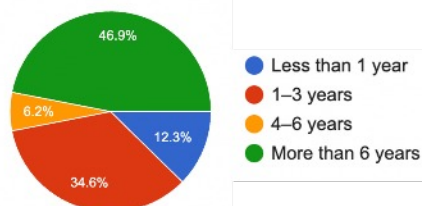
So - what did you all think of Bu3a?

Early in September, we invited all our members to take part in a short survey to help us plan for the future - looking at how we communicate, recruit, support our groups, and organise events. We were delighted to receive 81 responses - just over 30% of our membership - which compares very favourably with similar surveys elsewhere in the U3A network.

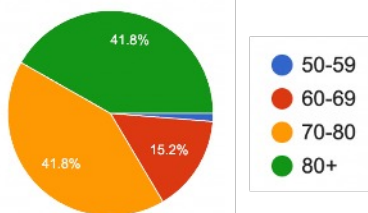
A huge thank-you to everyone who took part! Your feedback has given us a valuable snapshot of what matters most to our members. The main reasons people value belonging to Bakewell u3a include - social connection, group activities, staying active, learning new skills, and opportunities to get involved/volunteer.

The following is a summary of the key findings:

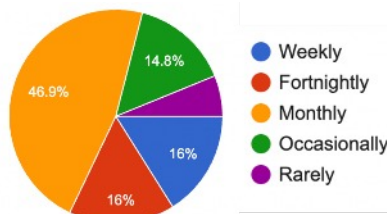
Q How long have you been a member of Bu3a?



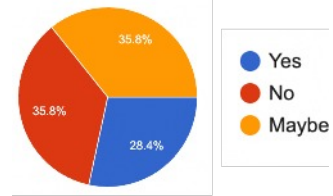
Q Which age group do you belong to?



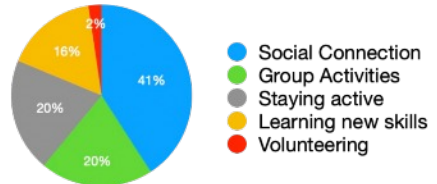
Q How often do you participate in Bu3a activities?



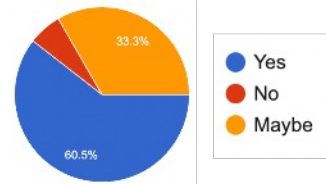
Q Would you like more regular updates, eg monthly newsletters, Whatsapp groups?



Q What do you consider to be the main benefits of your Bu3a membership?



Q Would you like more social events, for all members, to be organised?



Looking ahead, your comments will guide our planning over the coming year. Among the ideas being explored are:

- Improving communication to make sure that all members are aware of the full range of groups and activities available.
- Raising awareness locally to attract new members and ensure the continued vitality of our organisation.
- Introducing more open social events alongside the regular Meg Laird meetings - offering a chance for members to meet across different groups and for newcomers to see what we're about.
- Providing additional support for group coordinators and encouraging wider participation to help groups thrive and plan for the future.

The Membership and Engagement Action Group (mentioned in the Chairman's comments, Page 2) will continue to develop these ideas and share progress in future editions of the Gazette, and on the website.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions - after all, Bakewell u3a belongs to all of us. If you'd like to share any comments, thoughts, suggestions or ideas, please contact any committee member or email membership@bakewellu3a.org.uk.

David Hardman, David Thornton, Ainslie Kelly, Bernard McMahon

A message from the Environment Group

Brrr! Winter is coming. Is your home as warm and cosy as you would like it to be? Are you looking for ways to make your house more energy efficient but not sure where to start?



You may remember that, earlier this year, Bu3a bought a thermal imaging camera, which will take colour-coded images of temperature differences within a room. It's coming up to the time of year when using our camera may be particularly useful to members.

The camera can highlight insufficient loft insulation, gaps in skirting boards and floorboards, draughty windows and badly fitted loft hatches. These areas allow warmth to escape, meaning you use more fuel to keep your house warm. Once identified these issues can often be addressed through simple and inexpensive measures such as improving insulation or draughtproofing.

Perhaps you are planning bigger projects such as wall insulation or replacing some double glazing. The camera will help you identify priorities and ensure you don't waste money on unnecessary work. All our members are most welcome to borrow the camera to use in their homes, and to donate a small amount if they have found it useful (which goes towards the original cost of the camera).



To book the camera please contact environment@bakewellu3a.org.uk.



Walking Programme November - March 2026

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 essential 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 -



10 November,
8 December,
12 January,
9 February,
9 March



Details of our Group Activities - November 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.				gardens.and.houses@bakewellu3a.org.uk		
History Through Art	Helen Parker					Various Tuesday visits	Winter, 3 rd Tues, 3pm	historythroughart@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Luncheon Club	Anne Peller					1st 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						01629 636477		social.team@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Spanish	Jayne Northcott					Alternate Tuesdays	2.30 pm	Upstairs at Chakra Lounge, Bakewell
Walking	Rosemary Wolfe					See programme in the Gazette	Email: walking@bakewellu3a.org.uk	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young	3 rd Wednesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	writing.for.pleasure@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 -
5 November, 3 December, 7 January,
4 February, 4 March

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

Organiser: David Thornton

Dates: Thursdays: 13 November,
11 December, 15 January, 12 February,
12 March

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

Organiser: Rosemary Wolfe

Dates: Fridays: 21 November,
23 January, 20 February, 20 March

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 -
26 November,
28 January,
25 February,
25 March





Advance notice for Bakewell u3a Walking Group's Christmas meal

I've provisionally booked for about 30 of us to have a Christmas Meal together on **Friday, 19 December at the Bull's Head in Monyash.** We'll get together from 12 noon, to eat at 12.30 pm.

The Christmas menu has

not been issued yet but details/prices etc will be sent out to members as soon as I receive them. The restaurant will want a £10 deposit per person.



(This follows the closure of The Derwentwater Arms at Calver earlier this year.)

Ann Topham tophamtowers@tiscali.co.uk

And thinking of Christmas, it's the time of year when Bakewell groups and organisations are being asked to put up a tree in the All Saints' Tree Festival. Pru and Gill have already met to discuss the possibility of Bu3a having a tree - anyone who'd like to help them will be most welcome. Someone agreeing to dismantle the tree early in January would be particularly welcome. Email craft@bakewellu3a.org.uk



Church Christmas Tree Festival

Cookery Corner

CHOCOLATE AND ORANGE FLAN



8 oz. sweet shortcrust pastry
1/2 pint double cream
2.5 oz good quality dark chocolate, chopped
1 Tablespoon of very strong coffee
4 egg yolks
2 oz caster sugar
Grated zest of two oranges

Oven heat - 160 degrees C
300 F, Gas mark 4

Method

Roll out the pastry to the thickness of a £1 coin and bake blind for 10 - 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare the filling by heating the cream in a heavy saucepan until just bubbling, then add the chocolate and espresso. Remove from the heat when the chocolate has melted.

Beat the egg yolks and sugar together and pour onto the scalded cream.

Add the orange zest. Mix well, then pour into the pastry case and bake for 45 minutes or until just set.

Allow to cool. Decorate with slivers of crystallised orange, or more zest, if you like.

Serve with dusted chocolate powder and whipped cream or crème fraîche.

Delicious and very rich.

Irene Yarnall



I have the world's oldest globe. It's flat.

Buzz Nutley

In Istanbul I was known as English Delight.

Noel Coward



A bit of a facer

A lady walks into a butcher's shop late one afternoon wanting to buy a chicken. The butcher weighs the very last chicken he has and says, "That will be £4.50, please." "Oh dear, that's rather small," replies the lady, "do you have a larger one?" The crafty butcher takes the chicken into the back, plumps it up a bit, and brings it back, looking bigger. "That will be £5.50, please?" he says. "Oh good," says the lady, "I'll take them both."

I've taken up meditation. It beats sitting around doing nothing.

Our Cooking by Men group has a vacancy

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday evening each month, at Lady Manner's School. We cook a main course, and starter or pudding, eat what we've cooked (with "tipple") and, most importantly, enjoy the mayhem and company!

The cooking skills of our current members range from the novice to those who are expert, and CBM offers the opportunity to those not so proficient to learn and develop their skills (very useful if the main cook in the family is away).



For the Ladies, as our Guests, we hold an annual August Barbecue and a special "Full Works" session at Christmas.

Ladies, please have the conversation with your spouses and partners, and if they're interested, ask them to email me to arrange joining us one evening, as a Guest, to see if it will suit them. ("Try before you buy or cook?")

Ainslie Kelly cooking.by.men@bakewellu3a.org.uk

And here's a lovely Bu3a story to go with the poem below. David Williams, a founder member of our Writing for Pleasure Group, at the age of 12 had to write a poem about the seasons. So he wrote the first 4 lines, below. The teacher's comment, "Was this all you could manage?" And 4/10. Which niggled, and it was only in his 80s and 90s that he finished it. So here is David's complete poem.

THE SEASONS

Autumn leaves are turning mellow
Red and greens and golden yellow
Autumn tints are over all
As the leaves begin to fall

Winter's winds through woodlands
tear
All the trees stripped stark and bare
Heavy snowfalls clothe the ground
A myriad stars in frosty skies
abound

Spring heralds the return of warmth
Flowers spring from Mother Earth
Snowdrop, violet, celandine
Give way to others, all divine

Summer is the time
for harvest
By God's hand we
all are blest
Now we garner in
the grain
And the cycle starts
again.



Autumnal

*Sonnet 73: That time of year
behold - By Williams*

That time of year thou mayst in me
When yellow leaves, or none, or few,
Upon those boughs which shake against
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the throng
In me thou see'st the twilight of
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth
Death's second self, that seals up all
In me thou see'st the glowing of
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it might
Consum'd with that which it should
This thou perceiv'st, which makes
To love that well which thou must

October

by an anonymous author

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came -
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

poetry



*hear thou mayst in me
William Shakespeare*

When I behold
Or few, do hang
Against the cold,
The sweet birds sang.
Of such day
I trust,
Both take away,
To all in rest.
Of such fire
Both lie,
Must expire,
As nourish'd by.
Thy love more strong,
Must leave ere long.

November Night

by Adelaide Crapsey

Listen . . . the faint dry
sound,
Like steps of passing
ghosts,
The leaves, frost crisp'd,
break from the trees
And fall.

FALL, LEAVES, FALL
FALL, LEAVES, FALL; DIE,
FLOWERS, AWAY;
LENGTHEN NIGHT AND
SHORTEN DAY;
EVERY LEAF SPEAKS BLISS TO ME
FLUTTERING FROM THE
AUTUMN TREE.
I SHALL SMILE WHEN WREATHS
OF SNOW
BLOSSOM WHERE THE ROSE
SHOULD GROW;
I SHALL SING WHEN NIGHT'S
DECAY
USHERS IN A DREARIER DAY.

Emily Bronte

*I know this poem was in November
2024's issue, but that's a whole year ago,
so here it is again. Ed*

(Continued from Page 1) been more than mere entertainment. It affects us on so many levels - intellectual, moral, emotional, educational, social - but it's also wonderful entertainment! What's not to like? And sharing the experience of theatre with friends is part of the joy.

The aim is to have a visit to the theatre every quarter (Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham, Buxton, Manchester), preceded by either reading the play or having a presentation about it, and following the production by a discussion. We'll intersperse those sessions with presentations from local professionals and experts on the theatre in general, costume, set design, stage management, acting and directing - so that we have a fuller picture of how a play moves from page to stage. We'll meet one afternoon a month, probably Thursdays, for a couple of hours.

The U3A asked me to start the group and I'm very much looking forward to joining you. My name's Lindsay and I'm the Chair of the local award-winning group, the Chatsworth Players. You may have seen one of our shows. I'm professionally trained and have been active in the theatre all my life, mostly acting but latterly directing. I will draw on my own experience, and on my network of performers and producers, to enrich our meetings - you will be surprised at the expertise and enthusiasm for the theatre that we have in and around our little town!



I will need a few members to join me in some of the organisational work - sourcing scripts from the library, booking theatre tickets and collecting payments. It's going to be essential work to the running of the group. If there's anyone willing to join a small team to work with me, please get in touch at chatsworth.players.derbyshire@gmail.com Here's an initial draft programme for the year to give you an idea of what to expect. I look forward to meeting you in November.

Lindsay Jackson

Date	Programme
Nov 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions (30 mins) ● Small group discussions on ideas for the group (30 mins) ● Presentation by Lindsay on ‘The Theatre and its history’ (1 h)
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading and discussion of Dicken’s Christmas Carol
Jan 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas Carol – The Crucible, Sheffield – matinee (8 or 10 Jan, £48)
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and discussion of Christmas Carol (1 hour) ● Presentation and discussion on ‘Dressing a show – how it’s done’ (1 hour)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on ‘The Chatsworth Players and the importance of amateur theatre’ (1 hour) ● Presentation and discussion on ‘What’s involved in putting on a show’ (1 hour)
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jane Eyre - The Theatre at Chatsworth, preceded by a short history of the Theatre - evening performance £18
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Jane Eyre and discussion with the Director and some of the actors and costumiers (1 hour) ● Presentation and discussion on ‘Shakespeare – his life and how he wrote’ (1 hour)
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading Romeo and Juliet
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Romeo and Juliet – open air performance at Chatsworth - matinee £15
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talking Heads - Medway Centre - evening performance £15
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Talking Heads and Romeo and Juliet and discussion with the director and some of the actors and costumiers (1 hour) ● Discussion on the plan for 2027
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working from Shakespeare’s First Folio – a workshop
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation/discussion on ‘The history of the musical’ (1 hr) ● Presentation and discussion on ‘Financing a show’ (1 hour)
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Singin’ in the rain - The Crucible, Sheffield - matinee - £50
Jan 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Singin’ in the rain (1 hour) ● ‘Stage Management - the role of the stage manager and backstage crew’ (1 hour)

GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART AUTUMN/WINTER PROGRAMME



TIME - Our group meets from 2.30 pm onwards, for coffee/tea and a chat, with a 3.00 pm start. We meet at the Friends' Meeting House, Chapel Lane.

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Gill Roberts has arranged for Richard Faulkes, a researcher for the Manchester Art Gallery, to talk to us. He will give a presentation on L S Lowry. Thank you, Gill



Tuesday, 20th January 2026



Don Whitton, who has

interested us with his talks previously, returns to take us "Walking with Wild Flowers."

Tuesday 17th February 2026

James Ellison, an author and organic gardener enthusiast, will widen our knowledge of "Apple Trees."

Thanks to Pru Kirby for booking both our 2026 speakers.

PS - Please could I have volunteers to make the tea??

Sheila Sidebottom



What's going on here, then?

Jim sits in his garden enjoying the sunshine, and chattering away to himself. Every so often he throws back his head and roars with laughter, and occasionally, he shouts "Rubbish".



A policeman walks by and asks Jim what's going on. "I'm telling myself jokes," he replies, "and some of them are really good."

"So, why do you shout rubbish," the policeman asks.

"Oh," replies Jim, "that's when I've heard them before."

All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.

Sean O'Casey

Nothing in life ever looks as good as it does on the seed packet.

Kinky Friedman

Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.

Harold Nordberg

What if the hokey-kokey really IS what it's all about?

Bob Monkhouse

In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular.

Kathleen Norris

I don't believe in astrology. I'm a Sagittarian, and we're sceptical.

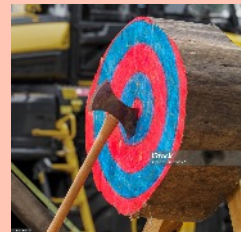
Arthur C Clarke

If there is such a thing as reincarnation, knowing my luck I'll come back as me.

Rodney Trotter, "Only Fools . . ."

SERENDIPITY?

As mentioned in my Ponderings, I'd spied axe-throwing in the Peak Advertiser, as a possible future activity for us, never having given it a thought before. In the very next issue of the PA, I saw an article about Matlock Trefoil, and what had they been up to?? I do like a bit of serendipity.



Something new - MEMBERS' GARDENS

You will all remember that Mrs Blossom retired recently, after delighting us with tales from her garden over many issues of the Gazette. Alison Stuart has now come up with an attractive twist on our Gardening Column, as she explains below. **Ed**

Says Alison - We are lucky, in Bakewell, to be surrounded by beautiful countryside with mostly clean, fresh air. The media tells us frequently that being outdoors with hands in the soil is good for our mental health. The majority of Bakewell U3A members have gardens of some description and, for many of us, they are a place of refuge. In a new feature for the Gazette I am asking members to tell me about their beloved gardens.

Susan Park's Garden

Susan is a longstanding member of U3A. She used to live in a large converted farmhouse which had an acre of garden with beautiful herbaceous borders, lawns, huge trees and a big vegetable patch. Susan is a very keen gardener. Fifteen years ago, as it all became too big for her with increasing age, she sensibly decided to downsize. She was lucky enough to be able to convert the adjoining



outhouses, the old dairy, into a charming house, more suited to her needs. Her garden is now a compact courtyard.

The garden is accessed from French windows in Susan's sitting room. It is completely walled, with four raised beds and an inner pebbled and flag-stoned area.

In each of the two beds around the edges, Susan has planted trees. In the first is a large Crab Apple tree which at present is covered in masses of red and gold fruit. There is

also a Silver Birch and an azalea, each planted in a large pot, underplanted with plants and flowers. In the other bed she has an Acer and hydrangeas. Susan has flowers wherever she can find a spot, there are pots of agapanthus, geraniums, hostas, a magnolia and lavender, and a box. Susan describes it as a pot garden but they only augment and add colour to the natural design. Up the walls roses grow, along with wisteria and clematis. Susan says her's is a Spring garden with bulbs planted everywhere, daffodils, tulips, as well as sweetpeas and even a lemon tree in a pot.

Susan has always enjoyed growing vegetables and until recently has had successful pots of tomatoes and runner beans. Even in her nineties she still buys annuals to plant in her pots, which gives all-round colour

Susan is a self-proclaimed sun lover and has a small table and chairs in a sun trap outside her French windows, as well as loungers and chairs strategically placed in the garden, to catch the sun as it moves around.



Alison Stuart



Youlgrave Cinema

**The film showing on Friday
7 November, at 7.30 pm, is**

Conclave

We meet in the Village Hall, Holywell Lane.

Entrance is £5, ice creams £1.50 and £2.

Please bring correct cash.



Peeling, Coring and Slicing with a Smile

Do you often make apple crumble? Or apple pie? Or do you just like stewed apple (extra delicious with tiny bits of crystallised ginger stirred in)? If so, all the above will mean peeling four or five or six apples. And if you do, then I have the very thing for you - always supposing you haven't already got one.

I bought this “thing” about 20 years ago and continue to be amazed by it EVERY time I use it. It makes me smile, as well as giving me peeled, cored and spiral sliced apples at the turning of a handle. It is the most delightful kitchen implement, and is worth having stashed away in a cupboard, even if you only peel apples a few times a year.



The design LOOKS Heath Robinsonish, but it works beautifully, and how anyone came to invent such an odd-looking and quite complicated little machine is almost beyond imagination.

And good old Google tells us: “The apple peeler corer was invented in 1864 by David H Goodell, who patented the first

rotary device that both peeled and cored apples. Goodell's invention, named the ‘lightning apple parer,’ made the process much faster by peeling, slicing, and coring an apple at the same time with a hand crank.” He lived in Antrim, New Hampshire.

And they're not terribly expensive, in fact, no more expensive than the one I bought around 20 years ago, and range from £12 - 30, with one on Google at £460 - I'm not sure what makes that one so special.



With apple trees, including my Bramley, producing prolifically this year, this little “thing” is a must in my kitchen. **Glenys Moore**

NB - the text in the heading is called “Apple Boy”. Ed

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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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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