

The GAZETTE



Issue No 99

August 2026

A final outing - hugely enjoyed by all



For proof of this heading, read on -

“Thank you for taking us to such diverse destinations over the last ten years, all so beautifully organised. We shall miss you.

“As a newish member of the bu3a Garden Group, I have thoroughly enjoyed this outing: interesting, stimulating and so efficiently organised. Thank you.

“Another fine day out with bu3a Garden Group. Once again, thanks to Sheila and Viv, who have given us many years of enjoyable outings, as well as interesting off-season meetings.

“I always look forward to our garden group visits and today didn't disappoint. The gardens were lovely, with fabulous borders. The hall was well worth visiting, too. Thank you.

“Thank you so much, Sheila and Viv, for organising our Garden Group for so long. All our coach trips have been so well organised, with reminder emails and a reserved front seat to help with my car sickness. I can't thank you both enough.

“Brilliantly organised trips over the years, and today such an interesting garden full of unusual plants and colour. PLUS, today we could BUY many of the plants at the shop. Wonderful plants. Going out on a high. Many thanks, Sheila.

(Over)

“Fascinating house, beautiful gardens and woodland, plus an excellent cafe. What more could we ask from our final ‘Sheila outing’?”

“Seamless organisation for this, our last trip, from Sheila and Viv. Thank you both so much.



“I had a wonderful day. I was allowed to bring ‘visitors’ as there were spare seats, and we all enjoyed our trip enormously. All the trips Sheila and Viv have organised for us have been a delight. Grateful thanks to them both for making so much effort on our behalves over the years.”

Detail of those big chimneys



And a favourite planting, a mass of lilies, a whole border, dozens of them



Arley Hall,
Northwich
Judged to be
well worth a visit by
Bu3a Garden Group



EX CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AUGUST 2026

Dear Member,

It is three years since the AGM which confirmed my nomination to become Bu3a Chair. It has been hard work and challenging, but extremely rewarding and, for the most part, thoroughly enjoyable. I have absolutely no regrets.

I am delighted to confirm that the office of Chair will, in fact, be shared by Bernard McMahon and David Thornton. This has your committee's approval, and confirmation of arrangements will be sought at the next AGM. They will be responsible for organising and conducting future committee meeting and for overseeing all subsequent Bu3a business.

I would like to thank all committee members, who have supported me over my time in office, and also all Group Leaders, who give their time and expertise to encourage our groups to operate effectively. I know that you will offer the same support to Bernard and David and, together, continue to develop a healthy, vibrant and active Bu3a.

Peter Holt
7 July 2026

Over the 3 years, I've found Peter an excellent Chair to work with. I've admired his commitment to Bu3a, his energy, his having new ideas and his setting up of the Chatsworth Group. I hope he enjoys his "retirement". Welcome Bernard and David. Ed



Editor's Ponderings

I suppose, first of all, I should tell my readers some news which may be of vague interest. From after the November issue of the Gazette, I shall cease to be its editor, in other words, this, the August issue, and then the November issue will be the last Gazette's I shall produce. In some ways, this will be a little sad for me, as I've thoroughly enjoyed my 10+ years as editor, but I daresay I shall find other things to do with my time.

Of course, the committee will now hope to hear from a member or members who would like to pick up the baton and run with their own take on Bu3a's Gazette. I will, of course, be very happy to give any help a new editor feels they might need. The good news is that we have several months to find a new editor. Please consider whether YOU, or someone you know, might be willing, keen, eager to take on this very rewarding task.

And, yes, since you ask, I've been to TKMaxx again, coming home with two more joy-making purchases.



And now - the surprise in my conservatory. Having left the door open at night during the hot weather, I found minor mayhem on two mornings, small plants knocked off the window sill, a ceramic planter lying in pieces, soil all over the place. So, I set about tidying up, supposing a cat or frantic bird had been in. Look what I found in a large pot of Clyvia. I think it's now living in my back garden, the mealworms disappear every night. And I'm still wondering how a hedgehog

climbs onto a windowsill 3 feet high or into a plant pot over a foot high. Whatever, it's most welcome to live in my back garden Ed



The next Meg Laird
Thursday, 29 October

at the Friends MH, 2.00 for 2.15 pm start

Dave Spencer

Dave's topic is North American Indians and how he came to be so interested in them . . . it's a fascinating story . . . not to be missed.

We've been unable to get hold of a more detailed description of Dave's talk in time for the Gazette, but will send one with the email reminder a couple of weeks before the talk.



£3 entrance. Non-members are most welcome, bring a friend. And don't forget, there's always tea and delicious cake afterwards.

So I said to the train driver, "I want to go to Paris." He said, "Eurostar?". I said, "I've done a bit of telly, but I'm no Dean Martin." ***Tim Vine***

The mobile phone, the fax machine, email. Call me old-fashioned but what's wrong with a chain of beacons? ***Harry Hill***

I'm a political activist. I support lots of causes, I don't wear leather, I don't wear Nike trainers, I buy from charity shops. I boycott Nestle - apart from KitKats, of course. ***Bunk Bed Boy***

I give orders to be awakened at any time in case of a national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting. ***Ronald Reagan***

Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself. ***Mark Twain***



WALKING GROUP HOLIDAY 2026

Newfield Hall, Malhamdale

To start before the beginning, as it were, last year's walking holiday was in the Lake District and was blessed with a week of fantastic weather. Anyone who knows the Lakes knows that Lake District sunshine is something of an oxymoron. We were very lucky.

Well, this year once again we had beautiful, dry, sunny weather, this time at Newfield Hall, near Malham, Yorkshire. Really keen walkers, of course, will walk no matter what the weather – but, oh, it is so much more enjoyable in the sunshine. The scenery was exquisite, Spring had sprung early this year, trees were in leaf, blossom was out, we could not have asked for more.

In years past we have done HF guided walks, of different lengths, but these days we are free to arrange our own – HF houses always have a Discovery Room, with many clearly detailed walk cards to borrow and explore, and information on local places of interest to visit.



However, this is a walking holiday, so –

Day one's long walk, for which 11 of our group of 16 opted, started from Grassington, crossing hills via Linton and Thorpe, and then down to the River Wharfe at Burnsall to follow a very pretty riverside path back to Grassington

A couple of people opted for a shorter, six mile peripheral walk around the HF house, embracing the village of Calton, home of John Lambert, leading Parliamentarian and General during the English Civil

Wars. From there the walkers crossed the infant River Aire to gain Airtion, historically a significant Quaker village, where – whom should they meet in the farm shop café, but the other two walkers following their own trail. After all four had sampled the excellent almond tray bake, the original six milers continued, choosing to have their picnic on the bank of the River Aire, then returning home across fields, passing an early Bronze Age long barrow and a magnificent series of medieval rising cultivation terraces. The other pair had their lunch at the Friends Meeting House, returning along the riverside path, and unfortunately encountering some difficult stiles constructed by some particularly long legged builders. However, walkers are always ready to help others, whether they know them or not, and some were keen to help those with shorter legs, so everyone returned home safely, all intact.



At this point, those with a degree in higher maths may notice there seems to be one walker missing. I confess that when I booked the holiday last year I fully expected to be back walking again, after becoming very disabled, but it was not to be. George and Rosemary, who organised the holiday, kindly allowed me to

tag on to the holiday (including the generous cream tea on arrival!) with a chance to meet up with friends I used to walk with.

Day two – the long walkers set off to walk from nearby Malham where they ascended 300 ft up the long steep steps by the side of Malham Cove, which gives birth to the River Aire. From the top there is a panoramic view and once everyone had caught their

breath they continued across the top and down to Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss – a picturesque small waterfall and pool, believed to be the home of Janet, queen of the fairies. From there they returned across fields to a welcome cup of tea in Malham village.

This time the rest of the group (yours truly kindly included) spent the day at Bolton Abbey. Our very own Duke of Devonshire has a weekend cottage (??) in the grounds there but we decided not to knock on the door in case he just wanted a bit of peace and quiet. There is copious parkland with the River Wharfe running through it, with some very famous stepping stones – which were sadly



(fortunately?) closed due to a wedged fallen tree across the middle, otherwise I'd love to have included a photo of our hardy bunch bravely crossing them. After lunch by the riverside, Pat and I returned at a very gentle pace to find a café, to await the rest of our party, who walked a few miles

further and then joined us, thus earning their cream tea. Cream teas do seem to form an important part of u3a walking holidays!

Thursday, Day three came all too soon – another beautiful cloudless sunny day, although we still had the strong wind which had featured all week, but not to grumble. The long walkers started, this time, from the House, crossing through several pretty villages, climbing a hill with clear views across to Malham Cove, and then descending to Kirkby Malham, one-time home of Bill Bryson, well known chronicler of all things English. After visiting the historic church and having lunch on the bank of the River Aire, they followed the course of the river back to the house. There were a number of stiles and this time it was David who was the hero, waiting to give a helping hand.

The other gentler group went to visit the beautiful church at Linton. The Church of St Michael and All Angels is in immaculate condition, part of it dating to the 12th century, it is clearly well loved and well



maintained, and apparently enjoys regular sizeable congregations, in spite of it not being in the centre of anywhere, but at the end of a lane not far from the River Wharfe. The group then walked a little way up river to discover the Linton Falls Hydroelectric Plant. This was

built in 1909 and operated well for some 40 years, until the arrival in North Yorkshire of the National Grid rendered it uneconomic. It was restored in 2012, with two large screw turbines using the force of the Wharfe at the falls. During the reconstruction care was taken to protect the rare fine-lined pea mussels (size of a grain of sand) which are only found in three sites in North Yorkshire, two of them in the River Wharfe. White clawed crayfish and bats were similarly protected during the construction, which once again supplies Grassington with its own power.

After that they made their way to Grassington for another cup of tea. Some had a final short walk from Grassington before following the others back to the house, for packing up and the final dinner.



It is worth saying, at this point, that the HF houses provide a copious breakfast, a packed lunch of choice and a 3 course dinner, with a bar open during the evening. **What's not to like?** *Judy Hinsliff*

*A big thank you to Judy for such a full and interesting report on the Walking Group break. While working on it there were times I felt I **was** there and others when **I wished** I had been. The amount of detail implies an awful lot of very careful note taking. Ed*

BU3A HISTORY THROUGH ART GROUP UPDATE

We meet between 2 and 4 pm on the 4th Monday of the month at Great Longstone Village Hall.

Here are details of our meetings between September 2026 and April 2027.

Most sessions are a prepared talk about an artist or art movement and their historical period, followed by questions and discussion. The speaker or session leader is usually a member of the group.

28 September: Martin Parr: Photography, Society and Satire in late 20th - early 21st Century, led by Bernard McMahon

26 October: The Portrayal of Costume and Drapery in Art, led by Marie White



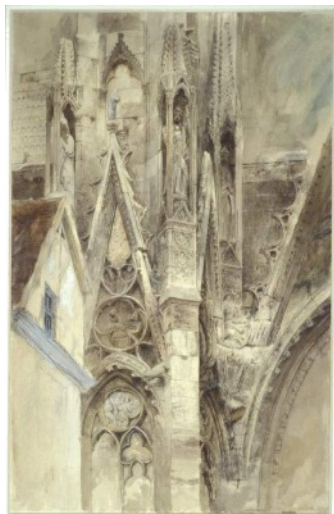
The Muralists - La Fiesta del Señor de Chalma by Fernando Leal



Costume and Drapery: Detail from a well-known Dutch painting. Any ideas?

23 November: Art of the Mexican Revolution: The Muralists, led by Adrian Wills
There will be no meeting in December.

25 January: A personal view of John Ruskin, led by Peter Holt.



John Ruskin: Entrance to the South Transept, Rouen Cathedral, 1854

22 February: The Pop Art movement, led by Jenny Unsworth

22 March: The Art of Ethiopia, led by David Thornton

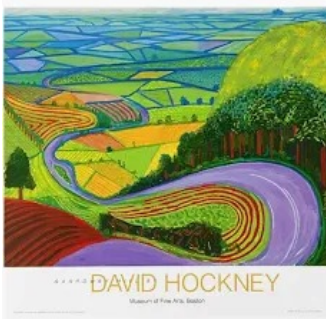
26 April: Led by Denise Wills – topic to be confirmed

We have also had an interest in talks to our group from Richard Foulkes of Manchester Art Gallery, who has offered a varied set of topics in exchange for donations to the Gallery. These will be discussed at our autumn meetings with a view to inviting him next summer.

New group members are always welcome but most group members will be asked to prepare occasional contributions and presentations. If you do not have transport to get to Great Longstone, lifts can usually be arranged.

Contact Helen Parker at
historythroughart@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Past talks that we have enjoyed include Johannes Vermeer; JMW Turner; John Constable; Early Christian Mosaics; Hans Holbein; The Dutch Golden Age; Francisco Goya; the Bauhaus; Eric Ravilious and David Hockney.



A possible Christmas lunch gathering

Those of you who are long-time members will remember, with fondness, the pre-Christmas gatherings we had at Hassop Hall. So does your Meg Laird/Social team - it was so easy and efficient and seamless, and satisfactory in every way. Since Hassop Hall closed, we've tried several other venues and **NONE OF THEM** has delivered a good experience for us in the way Hassop did.

Thoughts of last year's gathering at St Elphin's still cause me minor stress. The Manager's promises and assurances came to nought and a minor fiasco is how I remember the occasion. Nor did he apologise.



Our searches this year aren't proving particularly fruitful. Several won't contemplate a group of, perhaps, 30, and driving to Grindleford seems so unnecessary when we have hotels and restaurants much nearer.

Anyway, the result of our searching is that **the Peacock** is the only restaurant happy and even keen to welcome us and to promise to look after us in such a superior manner that it will dispel all memories of last year. The dining

rooms look delightful, it's not far away, and there's very adequate parking for us all.

But, and there's always a but, isn't there, the price is higher by a tidy margin, at £47 for two courses. So we've made a provisional booking and need to hear from members whether they'd like to attend such a gathering on Monday, 30 November. You can phone 01629 636477 or email glenysannmoore@googlemail.com to express your interest, or complete the little slip opposite. We need to hear from you **by the end of August**, at the very latest.

Free electricity - the illegal way or the legal way!

Two ways of avoiding payment for an electricity supply come to mind. As I do not wish to encourage readers to try the illegal and possibly fatal way, I describe an alternative. We use a combination of solar panels, a battery and a service which manages import and export from and to the grid to power our electrically heated home and electric car at no cost. Most days, we receive a credit for export of electricity which exceeds the cost of the standing charge and



import from the grid. We also receive payments from the management service for use of our equipment to help balance demand on the grid. Our debt to our supplier is falling. We are willing to share the information we have accumulated about capital costs and income generated.

**Contact the environment group at
environment@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Sam Lewis**

A possible Christmas lunch gathering

I/we are interested in having a meal at the Peacock at Rowsley on Monday, 30 November at a cost of £47 each.

Signed _____ No of diners _____

Telephone number _____

Email address, if you have one _____

MLT

Ashley Franklin returns

I don't know how anyone else felt who heard Ashley Franklin speak to us in January, about his "Derbyshire Life," but I felt he was one of our best in a long time. And, importantly, for many of our members, we COULD HEAR HIM - every word. Even more important, what he was saying was well worth hearing. He'd been a photographer and writer for "Derbyshire Life" for many years and his talk centred around the lesser known towns and villages in south Derbyshire which he'd researched, photographed and written articles about, along with really quirky stories.

This is just a heads up on him coming to speak to us again on Wednesday, 27 January 2027 - well worth putting in your diary, in my opinion.

MY DERBYSHIRE JOURNEY



In my very first Gazette, May 2016, I included what I felt were rather nice anagrams. I ran out after a good number of issues.

These were the first ones:

HMS Pinafore = Name for ship

Endearments = Tender names

Prosecutor = Court poser

Punishment = Nine thumps

Please complete this slip and return it to

Anne Peller

St Martin's

Butts View

Bakewell

DE45 1FE

or you can phone or email. Details on
Page 12.

I'm printing the piece below, again, as I'm convinced that the members who meant to respond to it may just have forgotten to do so, and our keenness to welcome a few new members to our little group has not dimmed over the past 3 months. So, here is the plea again . . .

Meg Laird really does NEED you

MLT

At the last Meg Laird planning meeting, the group was very keen to seek some help from some of you, perhaps slightly younger, fitter members.

A bit of background about the Meg Laird Team - full of enthusiasm and ideas, some jolly good bakers, very willing, but sadly, not always able. Our average age is over 80 and some of the physical tasks connected with putting on a Meg Laird talk are getting beyond some of us. And we're not getting any younger, so looking to the future, we really do need a few younger members to be willing to join the ML Group and join in making sure the Meg Laird talks (which began in 2014) can continue.

It's not that we're wanting to hand over and give up, we just DO need a few more helpers. We have 4 talks each year, a Christmas event, and a Charity Coffee Morning. We have very convivial meetings to plan, at Anne Peller's home, and she does very good coffee and lovely biscuits. So it isn't a huge commitment. Please think about whether you can offer some help. And, of course, none of us are expected to be available for every event - as long as enough of us are.

**Please get in touch - 01629 636477 for a chat, or
email.the.gazette@googlemail.com.**

A NEW PLAN

has been prepared by the Peak District National Park Authority and is the subject of a public consultation commencing 27 July. I urge members to respond to the public consultation. In my opinion, the plan has a major defect which will impede householders from taking action to reduce energy bills, avoid reliance on fossil fuels and help to change demand on the grid by installing a heat pump, solar panels or a battery outside their home. These installations fall within the meaning of development.



To see the plan, go to <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/policies-and-guides/the-local-plan/draft-plan-consultation-regulation-19>, click the link "Submission Draft Local Plan" under the heading Submission Documents. The most pertinent paragraph is 4.26 on page 56. For more information, contact the Bu3a Environment Group at environment@bakewellu3a.org.uk

Sam Lewis

Bert goes to a school reunion and finds his old schoolmates are only interested in talking about their ailments: kidney stones, heart murmurs, liver problems. Back home his wife asks how it went. "Not so much a reunion," he tells her, "more an organ recital."

Jim is in hospital chatting to his wife, "I've got the doctors baffled." "Why do you think that, love," she asks. Jim replies, "Well, they've put a suggestion box at the bottom of my bed."

A doctor sees a nun run shrieking from another doctor's office. He pops in to see what's going on. "Oh, I just told that nun she's pregnant," says the second doctor. "Is she?" "No, of course not, but it cured her hiccups."

The police are investigating the theft of a shipment of filing cabinets, document folders and labelling machines. It's believe to be the work of organised crime.



Walking Programme

Sept - Dec 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.**



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 -

2 September, 7 October,
4 November, 2 December



ATTENTION ALL WALKERS

Save the date - The Walkers' Christmas lunch is on 18th December, at The Bull's Head in Monyash. Further details nearer the time.



Details of our Group Activities - February 2026

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				history@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Ancient Trackways	John White		3 rd Monday	10 - 12 noon	ancient.tracks@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends Meeting House, Bakewell
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

Phone numbers removed due to GDPR privacy issues.

Subject	Co-ordinator	Phone	Meeting day	Time	Location
Gardens & Houses	New ones needed	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				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		1 st Tuesday	10 - 12 noon	french@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Ros Stokes		4 th Friday	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Friends' Meeting House
Sharing my Garden	Glenys Moore		3 rd Tuesday		Various gardens 01629 636477
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	0.604167	Upstairs at Chakra Lounge, Bakewell
Theatre	Lindsay Jackson		2 nd Monday	2pm	Friends' Meeting House
Walking	Rosemary Wolfe		See programme in the Gazette	Email: walking@bakewellu3a.org.uk	
Writing for Pleasure	Pip Young		Resting		writing.for.pleasure@bakewellu3a.org.uk

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

Organiser: David Thornton

Dates: Thursdays:
10 September,
8 October,
12 November,
10 December



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

Organiser: Rosemary Wolfe

Dates: Fridays:
18 September,
23 October, 20 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 -
23 September,
28 October,
25 November



The Monday Walk's Demise

I was really sad to realise that the Monday walk is no more. I've been including Sue Fordyce's name for over 8 years, as its organiser, and she tells me that the reducing number of walkers, due to age and decrepitude (lovely word, that), is the reason. Anyway, thank you, Sue, for 8 years of organising.

Cookery Corner

COURGETTE GARLIC AND POTATO SOUP

(Serves 4 - 6)



This recipe is useful if you have a glut of oversized courgettes in your garden.

- 3 large cloves of garlic, peel on
- 1 potato, peeled and chopped into small chunks
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 2 pints vegetable stock
- 2 large courgettes, roughly chopped
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1 Preheat the oven to 190 degrees C/Gas 5
- 2 Roast the garlic for 15 minutes.
- 3 Remove from oven, peel and chop into tiny bits. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onion and allow to sweat until soft but not coloured.
- 4 Add the courgettes and snipped garlic and cook over a low heat for 5 minutes. Add the potato and stock, and bring gently to the boil. Simmer the soup for about 15 minutes or until potato is cooked through.
- 5 Remove the soup from the heat and allow to cool slightly before transferring to a liquidiser. Blend the soup until smooth. Season to taste with salt and plenty of black pepper.



The recipe does call for a good amount of garlic, but, once it's roasted, the garlic loses its pungency and becomes sweet and aromatic.

Thank you very much, Irene

It's Goodnight from me, and it's Goodnight from him

There are several reasons for my being pleased that I've lived in the time I have, eg buying a good sized house in the Peak District for £6,850, even though the interest rate did reach 15% for a while. Another reason is the wonderful comedians and sit-coms that have delighted and amused me over the years.

I picked up a "Two Ronnies" book containing many of their jokes, one-liners and sketches. As I read them, I smiled and pictured the two of them sitting behind a news desk, and I could see and hear them delivering their "news" items. I hope you can, too. *Ed*

Ronnie Barker, 1929 - 2005

Ronnie Corbett, 1930 - 2016



RC - We'll talk to a stereo expert about his favourite breakfast - two bowls of Rice Krispies, 10 feet apart.

RB - And a Sultan with 365 wives will explain why he's looking forward to Leap Year.

RC - We'll interview the Romford girl who took the Pill washed down with pond water and was today told she was three months stagnant.

RB - Then we'll feature the famous colour blind poet, Mr Reginald Smithers. Here's an excerpt from one of his poems:

Roses are red

Violets are brown

The sky is bright yellow

And so are bluetits

RC - Madame Fifi Dubonnet, the former Picasso model, claimed that last Sunday her husband assaulted her and gave her three black eyes.

RB - Pilfering coal miners - do they have lots of slack in their trousers.

RC - The South Pilling Fire Brigade which has been late for every fire in the last 7 years is seeking suggestions as to what can be going wrong. If you've any ideas, please ring the Fire Brigade at South Pilling 067421659925847, Ex 7787124 - and leave a message on the answerphone.

RB - And an executive from a toothpaste manufacturing company was divorced by his wife on the grounds of cruelty. She claimed he kept squeezing her at the wrong end.

RC - Education - can cross-eyed teachers control their pupils?

RB - The Chancellor has announced new plans for shortening the dole queue. He's asking people to stand closer together.

RC - In a white paper today the Government has announced plans to help the small shopkeeper. Lower counters.

RB - Finally, a man has complained about the noise made by an amorous couple in the flat above him.

Each evening they'd sing "The Red Flag", eat their supper, have fun on the sofa and take a very naughty bath together.

RC - So every night it was hammer and sickle, cheese and pickle, slap and tickle and bubble and squeak.



RB - And finally, the engagement is announced between the famous post impressionist, Madeline Renoir and Mr Percy Edwards, the famous animal impersonator. They met when he was giving his impression of a dog and she was giving her impression of a post.

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

The Theatre Group's latest outing

The Chatsworth Players performed an open-air summer tour of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* across the Peak District from 9 - 18 July. Lindsay Jackson, our Bu3a Theatre Group leader, directed the production, which concluded its run with final performances at the Chatsworth Park Ranger's House on Saturday, 18 July, 2026, and this was the performance which 10 members of the Theatre Group saw. And Lindsay, our group leader, and members, Joan and Bernard, say:



Having read the script at our last group meeting, it was really rewarding to see how the actors brought it to life and to see the reactions of the audience. The greatest praise for me is when people say that they weren't sure about coming to see a Shakespeare play because they thought they'd struggle to understand it, but that they could actually understand everything, and forgot within minutes that they were listening to the language of over 400 years ago. That's a tribute to the quality of the actors - and the judicious cutting that I did before the show started. It's a daunting thing to cut a Shakespeare play - particularly the first time you do it - but I now realise that in doing that, I'm helping to make his wonderful work more accessible to today's audience.



And amazingly, there was a French impresario in the audience for two of the shows and he was so impressed with us that he's invited us to take the play and perform it in La Rochelle next year! We're currently working out how we can achieve that.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported us.

At our next group meeting we'll have Romeo, Juliet, Nurse, Friar Laurence and Jane the costumier to talk to us about the process of preparing the show. **Lindsay Jackson, Director.**

A Sunlit Afternoon with the Chatsworth Players

There's something wonderfully fitting about watching *Romeo and Juliet* unfold beneath the open sky, in the beautiful grounds of the Chatsworth House Estate— and the Chatsworth Players made the most of every inch of that setting for this matinee performance. This was community theatre at its best: heartfelt, ambitious, and full of genuine joy in the craft. Imaginative props and beautiful costumes added enormously.



The young leads brought real freshness to *Romeo and Juliet*, capturing the breathlessness of first love without ever tipping into caricature - no small feat with such familiar material. The balcony scene, staged in the bright afternoon sunshine, was a genuine highlight; you could feel the audience lean in together.

Mercutio stole plenty of laughs with a lively, mischievous energy, and the ensemble's swordplay was handled with real commitment, given the challenges of an outdoor, unraked lawn.

Congratulations to everyone involved, on stage and off, for pulling together such a spirited and memorable afternoon. Verona has rarely felt so at home in Derbyshire. Highly recommended for anyone who loves theatre with a bit of grass underfoot.

Joan Hardman



A theatre goer enjoys a picnic

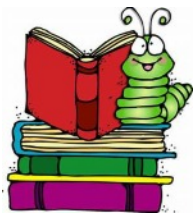
A Triumph - *Romeo and Juliet*, performed by The Chatsworth Players, was simply wonderful. Set in the garden of the Chatsworth Park Ranger's House, the play was presented with charm, simplicity, and joy. The clarity of delivery in the outdoor setting was excellent. Supported by a great cast of players. Sean Day as Romeo and Tess Edmonds as Juliet, transported us to Verona and drew us into the world of family vendetta, intrigue, and lost love. Lindsay Jackson's direction, combined with the simple yet very effective staging, was a triumph.

Bernard McMahon



clever story. However, it has a trait that some readers didn't like; it skips about. Some dealt with this by reading all the Bear sections, followed by the Julian sections and the Gordon sections, and were happy with this. Most of us read it straight through and loved it anyway. One reader loved the fact that Knapp is not judgmental about any of the routes, and the surprising twists show we don't always take the most obvious path.

The "Names" deals with uncomfortable subjects, uppermost being the generational abuse, but also with love and connection. What I enjoyed the most was wanting so hard for the right outcome in all three cases, but being totally surprised by each one. **Jane Burgess**



Bu3a Book Group

What have we been reading?

Book Group read and discussed “The Names” by Florence Knapp (her debut novel) in July and, unusually, we all either liked it or were willing to be convinced. A real contender for Book of the Year for Bu3a Book Group! Here is a brief synopsis and some readers' views on the book.

The “Names” is a clever debut novel. We meet Cora in Ireland 1987, walking to register her newborn son. She must pick one of three names. Should she choose Bear (her young daughter Maia's wish for him to be soft yet strong and independent), Julian (meaning sky father. Cora sets her heart on this name as a diplomatic compromise. It honours the idea of a father figure while attempting to transcend the abusive, fallible earthly legacy of her husband), or Gordon (the family name that her abusive doctor



husband insists upon). The book divides as she faces her husband to tell him the name she has registered. It follows three paths over 35 years, in seven year jumps, each dealing with the consequences of the choice she makes. Each name choice is important because Cora believes the name will shape the child's future. And it does, but not always in the way we expect.

The book is beautifully written, sensitive, surprising, horrific and funny by turns. The three lives are totally different but make a coherent and

Continued

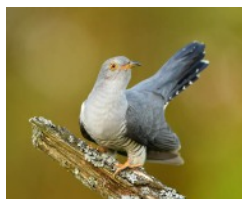


When Anne Peller suggested this poem/song for inclusion in the Gazette, in a phone call, we immediately began to sing it to each other down the phone. We'd both learned it at school. Ed

SUMMER

And when I googled to find the words, I was fascinated by its story, and I hope you'll be fascinated too.

This 800-year-old song was written in the 13th century, making it one of the oldest songs in English. It's from a miscellany that was probably written in Oxford around 1260 and it's the first recorded use of six-part polyphony, ie six voices singing independent lines. The



beautifully preserved manuscript contains poems, fables

and medical texts – and is the only written record of ‘Sumer is icumen in’.

The fact that the song – and this score – has survived to the present day is incredible, and there are fascinating details buried in it:

First, there are both English lyrics and completely different Latin

lyrics. Below, on the musical staff you can see the lyrics printed in Middle English (black) and Latin (red).

It contains the oldest record of the



word ‘fart’. The Middle English contains several recognisable words, though one phrase will need a little explanation. ‘Bucke uerteth’ apparently means, ‘the goat farts’, the first usage of this profanity in written English.

The man who owned the manuscript also led what you might call a colourful life: William of Winchester, a monk from Reading, who may have owned the manuscript, loved music and women - which was problematic given his vocation. He was brought before the Bishop of Hereford in the 1270s following allegations that he had slept with a number of women, including a nun.

poetry

Sumer is icumen in,
Lhude sing cuccu!
Groweþ sed and bloweþ med
And springþ þe wde nu,
Sing cuccu!
Awe bleteþ after lomb,
Lhouþ after calue cu.
Bulluc sterteþ, bucke uerteþ,
Murie sing cuccu!
Cuccu, cuccu, wel singes þu cuccu;
Ne swik þu nauer nu.

Sing cuccu
nu. Sing
cuccu.
Sing cuccu.
Sing cuccu
nu!



Summer is a
coming in,
Loudly sing, Cuckoo!
Groweth seed and bloweth mead,
And springeth wood anew,
Sing, Cuckoo!
Ewe bleateth after lamb
Cow loweth after calf.
Bullock starteth buck, too, verteth,
Merrily sing, Cuckoo!
Cuckoo, cuckoo, well you sing,
cuckoo;
Of cease thee never now,
Sing cuckoo now. Sing, Cuckoo.
Sing Cuckoo. Sing cuckoo now!

Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

William Shakespeare

I Didn't Go To Church Today

*I didn't go to church today,
I trust the Lord to understand.
The surf was swirling blue and white,
The children swirling on the sand.
He knows, He knows how brief my stay,
How brief this spell of summer weather,
He knows when I am said and done
We'll have plenty of time together.*

Ogden Nash

Members' Gardens

A Tale of two Gardens

Sheila Sidebottom and Vivian Stephenson live almost opposite each other in Bakewell. Sheila has lived in her bungalow for 13 years and Vivian only 15 months. Sheila has a pretty rockery front garden which she inherited and has now filled with lots of attractive plants - little geraniums, rockery phlox, rock roses, petunias, potentillas, and many more plants for spring and winter.



The main garden is in the back. When Sheila bought the bungalow, 13 years ago, it had been owned by a family with children. They had pulled up the lawn and had lots of raspberries and brambles and she had to start again to make it into a garden. She has made a patio which has a table and sitting area and it's brightened with lots of pots containing petunias and other annuals.

Sheila says the garden was not planned but has emerged. She claims that she is not a gardener but plants things she likes, and the effect is charming. Sheila had a lawn laid with a dividing path leaving a triangular bed and a smaller side bed. The larger bed is full of brightly flowering plants, a mix of perennials and annuals. There are phloxes, marigolds, a maroon scabious, tansy and hostas, all thriving but with room to grow. At the end of the lawn are two arches which are covered with honeysuckle. On the opposite side, as well as grass, there is a gravel bed with small trees planted, previously a weeping willow grew too large and had to be cut down. Beyond the arches is an area of shrubs containing three

different hollies, all cut to shape, each one different but full of berries in winter. The garden stretches down to the main road so Sheila has planted an area of shrubs and trees to screen it out. My general impression of the garden was of a mature garden, extremely attractive, very colourful, very neat and manicured and the sort of place where you would be happy to sit and laze away a summer's afternoon.



Vivian downsized from the other side of Bakewell 15 months ago. Her old house had a large and beautiful garden stretching up to the woods. The bungalow that she has bought on the opposite side of the road from Sheila is on a steeply rising plot. The garden previously appeared to be overgrown and neglected. The front garden was a bank with a roughly cut lawn. Vivian employed help to lay a skim over the whole surface which she has covered with a deep layer of ornamental bark. On a hot day last summer holes were cut in the skim to plant rhododendrons which she had brought in pots from her old house. Somewhat to my surprise they all flourished and flowered this summer. Vivian has since planted other shrubs and a bank of heathers.



The back garden is quite large and rises steeply. In its previous state it was described as a wild meadow. Vivian's aim is to make a garden which is easy to manage as she gets older, with no lawns to mow. She has a flat yard with fencing to contain the bank. She has had a membrane laid over the rest of the garden, covered with pebbles and gravel, into which she has planted

shrubs, tubs, succulents and other drought tolerant plants. The garden is in two layers with easy stone steps all the way to the



top, where there is a large patio with table and chairs and a sculpted pot, a present from friends. Each side has a border filled with healthy looking plants. One side has a tidy laurel hedge with plants like crocosmia, geraniums, grasses, penstemons , and anemones. The other side

has a new wooden fence, with honeysuckles and other climbers, and a similar planted border. Vivian says that she has not had to buy many plants as friends and neighbours have given her plants from their gardens. There is still room for plenty more. From this height the view is spectacular, looking over Bakewell to the hills and woods beyond.

The whole effect is extremely attractive. Some of the major jobs have been professionally done by a group of gardeners who came in and quickly blitzed the job, and family have helped where possible, but the planning and most of the planting is Vivian's. My main impression of the garden is, "WOW, however has this been achieved in just a year!"

Two gardens, close together, both very neat and full of brightness and colour, and both places where you would feel happy and relaxed, able to enjoy the garden.



Alison Stuart



GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART



**Our last visit,
to Arley Hall
on Monday
13 July 2026**

**Now this page is
waiting for a
new owner**

**Bakewell u3a
Chatsworth Group**



THE DEVONSHIRE COLLECTION

**Passions, Personalities and Patronage
Simon Seligman**

Simon has spent almost 30 years working in the arts, heritage, tourism and communication. Throughout his engaging presentation he will explore the Devonshire collection chronologically by collector, over 17 generations from 1550 to the present day, by way of explaining how such a diverse range of art and artefacts ended up under one roof, from precious drawings by Rembrandt and Raphael to modern work by Lucian Freud, Elisabeth Frink and Edmund de Waal.

Wednesday, 16th September 2026 | 2PM

**Venue: Bakewell Town Hall, The Square, Bakewell
DE45 1BT**

Tickets from TicketSource £5.00.

<http://www.ticketsource.com/bakewell-u3a>

Tea and coffee available afterwards.

**This event is open to all Bu3a
members and guests.**

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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