The GAZETTE

Issue No 100 November 2026

Valuing contributions

I think everyone who reads the Gazette will be aware how much I appreciate the contributions some Bu3a members make, and the delight I feel when an article turns up out of the blue. I always feel that those are the pieces that lift our newsletter, and even, sometimes, make it fly. I have had several regular contributors over the years and have been extremely grateful for their efforts: Teazel, Mrs Blossom and Irene Yarnell in Cookery Corner, and Marie Howes and Rick Naylor, for several interesting articles.

Judy Hinsliff, along with her husband Geoff, was a long-time Bu3a member, particularly active in the walking group. She died recently, and before attending her memorial service in Winster Church, it occurred to me that her Guardian columnist daughter, Gaby, might be interested to see her mother's many writings in Bu3a's Gazette. I was surprised to find that Judy had contributed articles at least 8 times, and I was able to find some of them in back copies, which were delivered after the service. *(Overleaf)*



Her final contribution was in August's Gazette, and I'm so pleased that I offered Judy a heartfelt thank you for it. She was always very supportive on the Gazette front, some of her articles were really humorous, and I enjoyed the Gazette contact I had with Judy very much. ***Ed***

Particular friends of Judy had this to say of her:

Judy was always interesting company. She was a very approachable, friendly person who had a gift for being able to fit in with a variety of age groups. She was not afraid to express her opinions, but in a non contentious manner. She was very uncomplaining, in spite of being in discomfort. At her funeral her grandson Freddie gave an enthusiastic tribute to Judy, and it was very obvious that Judy had been able to connect with the younger members of her family. Judy will be sorely missed by all her many friends. ***Rosemary Wolfe***



Judy was a wonderful person. She was funny, clever, incisive, kind, loving, brave and generous. Her untimely death was extremely sad and she will be hugely missed. At her overflowing funeral, her friend and neighbour read the poem (opposite), ***"In Lieu of Flowers"****, which just had Judy written all over it.*

Jane Kayley-Burgess



In Lieu of Flowers

by Shawna Lemay

Although I love flowers very much, I won't see them when I'm gone. So in lieu of flowers: buy a book of poetry written by someone still alive, sit outside with a cup of tea, a glass of wine, and read it out loud, by yourself or to someone, or silently.

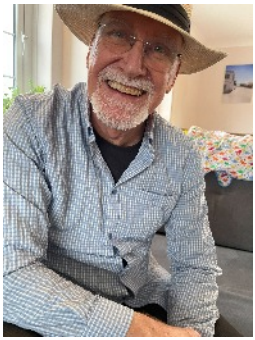
Spend some time with a single flower. A rose maybe. Smell it, touch the petals.

Really look at it.

Drink a nice bottle of wine with someone you love.

Or, Champagne. And think of what John Maynard Keynes said, "My only regret in life is that I did not drink more Champagne." Or what Dom Perignon said when he first tasted the stuff: "Come quickly! I am tasting stars!"

Take out a paint set and lay down some colours.
Watch birds. Common sparrows are fine. Pigeons, too. Geese are nice. Robins.
In lieu of flowers, walk in the trees and watch the light fall into it. Eat an apple, a really nice big one. I hope it's crisp.
Have a long soak in the bathtub with candles, maybe some rose petals.
Sit on the front stoop and watch the clouds. Have a dish of strawberry ice cream in my name.
If it's winter, have a cup of hot chocolate outside for me. If it's summer, a big glass of ice water.
If it's autumn, collect some leaves and press them in a book you love. I'd like that.
Sit and look out of a window and write down what you see.
Write some other things down.
In lieu of flowers.



CHAIRMEN'S REMARKS

NOVEMBER 2026



Dear Member

We are pleased to take up the role of Co-Chairs of Bakewell u3a, following Peter Holt's successful 3-year term. We look forward to serving the organisation, and to working with members, group leaders and the committee, in the months ahead.

Bakewell u3a is a welcoming and vibrant community, offering opportunities to learn, share interests and make new friends. We hope to support the excellent work already taking place, encourage new ideas and help ensure that Bakewell u3a continues to be an enjoyable and inclusive organisation for everyone.

As many of you know, this issue of the Gazette was to be the last, as Glenys felt it time to step down from this significant role. This raised important questions: could we find someone to take up the mantle? If not, how could we ensure a communication channel with members? We are very pleased to report that, after much discussion of options, the Gazette will continue. Furthermore, Glenys has provided the solution - she will continue to produce it. The Committee, and I am sure you, wish to thank Glenys.

In all organisations there are ebbs and flows and Bu3a is no different. In the last few months two groups have ceased; the Gardens Group and Bridge Group have each reached this conclusion. Some groups are eager to recruit new members, for example, the Bowls Group would welcome you in the new season next year. Nevertheless, many groups continue to thrive and new ones form.

The Theatre Group has a full programme of meetings and a growing membership, the Chatsworth Group recently held its

biggest meeting when Simon Seligman presented the history of the art collection at Chatsworth. For the first time the meeting was held in Bakewell Town Hall to accommodate the audience.

As a voluntary organisation, we depend on members offering to help lead and grow our u3a, and we thank all of you who do so. Of course, there is always more that can be done, so please do consider offering to help where you are able, particularly in the groups of which you are members. We know that group leaders always appreciate help with organising meetings, from setting up and breaking down, making tea and coffee, and giving talks where that is appropriate.

We have strengthened our connections with other u3as. The **Derbyshire u3a Network** brings together members of u3a committees from the county for a quarterly meeting where ideas and experiences can be shared. The **East Midlands Regional Network** extends this to connect Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. We see this as a valuable resource and opportunity.

Attracting new members to our u3a is vital to long-term success, so do introduce your friends and acquaintances to Bu3a; as ever, they can attend a couple of meetings as a guest so they can judge whether u3a is for them. We would be pleased to hear your thoughts, suggestions and ideas, and we look forward to meeting many of you at events and group activities. Thank you for your continued support - we are excited about the future.



As this issue of the Gazette is published in November, we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With best wishes,
David Thornton (right) **and Bernard McMahon** (left)



Editor's Ponderings



I do hope some of you remember my hedgehog story from the August issue. To continue, my sister suggested I buy mealworms and put them out, along with a dish of water, in case Heggie had taken up residence in my back garden. So putting out mealworms has become an essential part of my going-to-bed routine, and checking whether they've been eaten is just as important, every morning. And almost every morning, the mealworms have disappeared. About once a week it seems that Heggie goes out on the village, and eats out. So I've persuaded myself that Heggie is really living with me, though there is sometimes a lingering doubt that some other enterprising creature might actually be doing the munching.

Imagine my amazement and excitement, on Thursday, 8 October, to find Heggie having a drink, when I trotted out with the evening's ration of mealworms. I rushed in to find my phone and he/she posed very nicely, and has grown considerably in the 3 months since we last met. Remembering that he/she needs to fatten up ready for hibernation, I've upped the ration. And I'm pondering making a little house, and filling it with leaves, in the hope that residence might continue through the winter.

Another topic - has anyone thought of trying to make their own Kefir? Seduced by the suggestion it would improve my gut health, I bought 20 gm of Kefir grains, quite a while ago, and have been making it ever since. And it grows, so I now have enough to pass on 20 gm helpings to anyone interested, several times. Phone me, 01629 636477, if you'd like to try it. What's to lose? ***Ed***

PS - *I'm happy to be continuing as editor of your Gazette.*

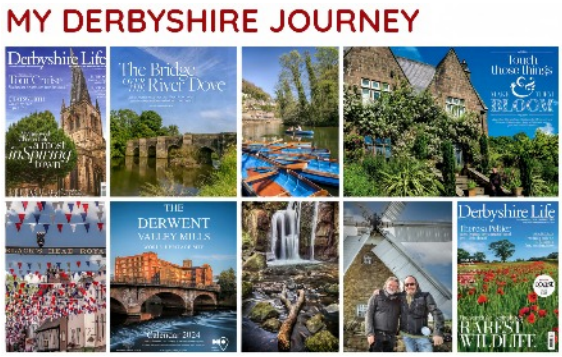
MLT

Ashley Franklin returns on Friday, 29 January

Note the date is changed from the one printed in the August Gazette

2 for 2.15 pm, Friends Meeting House

Ashley Franklin was our speaker in January 2026, and was extremely well received by those who attended his talk. We're delighted to be welcoming him again, and hope lots of you will come along to hear this excellent speaker, and he's very clear and audible into the bargain. Ashley has been a photographer and writer for "Derbyshire Life" for many years and his talks centre around aspects of Derbyshire which he's researched, photographed and written articles about, along with really quirky, amusing stories.



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



Apparently, one in five people in the world are Chinese. And there are five people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my mum or dad, or my older brother, Colin, or my younger brother, Ho-Cha-Chu. But I think it's Colin.



MLT

Another Meg Laird gathering

Tuesday, 8 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 pies, 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.
Why not invite a friend? Entrance £3



and warm mulled wine

And, of course, there are warm mince pies



Our Charity Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday, 20 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 **Ashgate Hospice.** Last year we raised £520 for Cancer Research. (We've never topped £600???)

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 Ashgate Hospice.



If you have something we could add to the raffle, please contact Gill Roberts, by emailing social.team@bakewell u3a.org.uk.

And you can all drink coffee or tea, munch biscuits, and chat with friends and acquaintance, to your hearts' contents. **Bring along a friend, let's raise more cash than ever before, and make sure this date goes into your new calendar.**

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



The appeal for a few Bu3a members to join our Meg Laird/Social team was printed twice, in successive Gazettes, and . . . .

Meg Laird really does NEED you

MLT

. . . at our friendly, convivial, positive meeting on Tuesday, 22 September, the members of our Meg Laird/Social team were sad to find that our heartfelt appeal for a few more members to join our happy band had fallen on deaf ears.



We'll keep going for as long as possible, but when the tasks involved in organising and running Meg Laird events become a physical impossibility for the team, we'll very sadly take a final curtain call, and Meg Laird events will be no more.

Unless . . .

Please get in touch - 01629 813591 for a chat, or email.the.gazette@googlemail.com.

What's the difference between a literalist and a kleptomaniac?



A literalist takes things literally.

A kleptomaniac takes things, literally.

What's the difference between a cat and a comma?



One has its claws at the end of its paws, and one is a pause at the end of a clause.



Yes, it's me again!

It's that time of year! SUBS!

Hello, it's me again, did I hear you groan? I need you to make a determined effort to deal with paying your subs, on Friday, 1st January 2027 (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 £4 subscription.

Method 1 - Make a payment by BACS online transfer, bank details below, and include your **FULL 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 2027, payable to Bakewell Area u3a, with your **name/s on the back**, to:

Kath Hopkins, Wyndham, Derwent Drive, Baslow, Bakewell, DE45 1RS

You can send it early - it won't be banked until 2 January.

Method 3 - At the very latest, bring cash, or a cheque with 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, 20 January.**



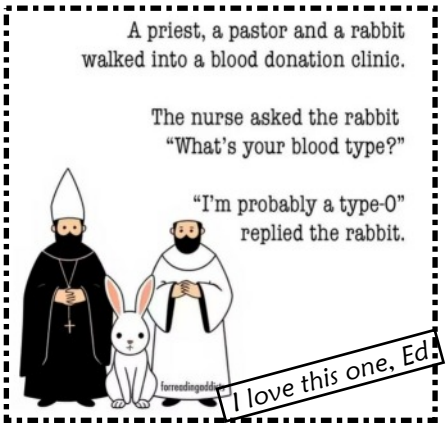
Job done? Well done.



Bakewell Bu3a Bridge Group is no more

I've enjoyed using this lovely image of Ironbridge over the years whenever there was mention of our Bu3a Bridge Group.

Sadly, the group is calling a halt after many years of playing every Thursday at the Medway. Many thanks to Trish Simmonds for keeping the group going for so long.





Here's to hell. May we have as good a time being there as we did getting there.

Yussel Shnook

Behold the turtle, it makes progress only when it sticks its neck out.

James Bryant Conant



"How wonderful it must have been for the Ancient Britons," my mother once said, "when the Romans arrived and, at last, they could have a hot bath."

Katharine Whitehorn

Will your Christmas Tree stand to attention?

Anyone who's lain awkwardly on the floor, sometime in December, trying to turn screws to secure a Christmas tree trunk into a tree holder that you've been assured does the job beautifully, only to find the tree is skewiff or just falls over, definitely not secured, will have huge sympathy with Gill and Pru, who tried very hard to secure the Bu3a Christmas tree, so that they could dress it attractively, and became extremely frustrated over the workings of their tree holder. (Possibly the longest sentence that's ever appeared in a Gazette. I THINK it's grammatical, and even makes sense.)







Several years ago, while buying a 6 ft tree from the Christmas tree vendor on Hackney Lane, down Darley Dale, I spied what I felt looked like an excellently designed Christmas tree holder. I was assured it was the Prince among Christmas tree holders, and I've lived to agree wholeheartedly with the gentleman.



So I hope all our members will be delighted to hear that our Co-chairmen agreed that Bu3a should also possess this splendid creation, so our wonderful Bu3a Christmas Tree decorators will never struggle again.

The interesting thing is that it's incredibly simple in the way it accepts the trunk and proceeds to offer support to quite a large tree without allowing it to fall or even lean over - unless the user is incredibly cackhanded. Keep your eye open, the Wonder Kid is on view somewhere in the Gazette.

The netting device the Darley Dale man uses is also a splendidly simple but ingenious device, a huge funnel, tree shoved through, tree neatly netted, branches held tightly by its side.

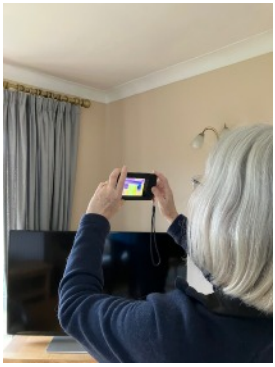
Back in February 2025, something like this article was printed to let members know of the existence of the Bu3a Thermal Imaging Camera. It feels like that time of year again, so here's a reminder.



Reduce your home heating bills

The Bu3a Thermal Imaging Camera may help

Now the cost of heating your home is set to rise again this winter, you may be looking for ways to make your house more energy efficient, but you may not be sure where in your house the precious heat is escaping and letting in that bitter cold.



How the Bu3a thermal imaging camera can help

Our thermal imaging camera enables you to see heat leaking or cold air entering your house by taking colour-coded images of temperature differences within a room. Our Hik-micro camera is simple to use; you see instant results which you can also save. It comes with some simple instructions and our own user guide to help those who want a particularly detailed interpretation of results.



The camera can highlight insufficient loft insulation, gaps in skirting boards and floorboards, draughty windows

and badly fitted loft hatches. Once identified, these issues can often be addressed through simple and less expensive measures such as improving insulation or draught-proofing.

If you are planning bigger projects such as wall insulation or replacing double glazing, the camera helps identify priorities and may help avoid wasting money on unnecessary work.

How the TIC loan scheme works

- You can borrow the camera for up to 48 hours and, if you've found it helpful, we'd like a minimum donation of £10. Your donation will help cover the cost of purchasing the camera.
- You are asked to collect and return the equipment to the keeper in Bakewell, and make your donation if you wish, in cash or by BACS, on return.
- To book the camera, please email environment@bakewellu3a.org.uk with your name, address and a telephone number on which we can contact you.

Bu3a insurance covers loss or damage of the camera in any member's house and in transit, but there is quite a high excess, so we will ask you to sign a document accepting responsibility for care of the equipment whilst in your possession.



Using less energy at any time of year is helpful in reducing global warming.

Bu3a Environment Group

One of the reasons Britain is such a steady and gracious place is the calming influence of the football results and the shipping forecast. ***Bill Bryson***

Patriotism is the conviction that your country is superior because you were born in it. ***George Bernard Shaw***

Now that he was rich, he wasn't thought to be ignorant or stupid any more, simply eccentric. ***Mavis Gallant***



SHARING OUR GARDENS

As a member of this group, I think it's been a great success, and I hope the other members will agree. We've been to gardens in Bakewell, Ashford-in-the-water, Darley Dale, Rowland and Youlgrave. Apart from some of us being away on meeting days, and missing some gardens, we've all visited some of them, and decided to go round again next year. As we'll shuffle the months up, to an extent we'll be visiting "different" gardens - we all know how our gardens can vary from month to month during the gardening season.

We've taken inspiration from each other, and benefited from each other's gardening knowledge - there's absolutely no doubt that 2 of our members are top quality plantswomen.

Having visited the "September Garden", where, among many other things, I saw a wonderful pond, I've come home and employed a lovely man to help me reconfigure **my** pond. Already, I'm delighted with the result. Now I shall be on the look out for pond plants to beg, borrow, or steal. *(That's the work in progress.)*



And we've been treated to some delicious cakes along the way - so there's been plenty of recipe swapping. Now we just have to weather the autumn and winter, and, in March, off we'll go again.

Of course, the group can't become too big, but as a few of us tend to miss each visit, we could perhaps absorb a few more members, if anyone is interested in joining us. Please don't think you have to have a large or wonderful garden, you just need to love it and want to share it. Phone 01629 636477 to learn more.

Walking Programme
November - March 2027

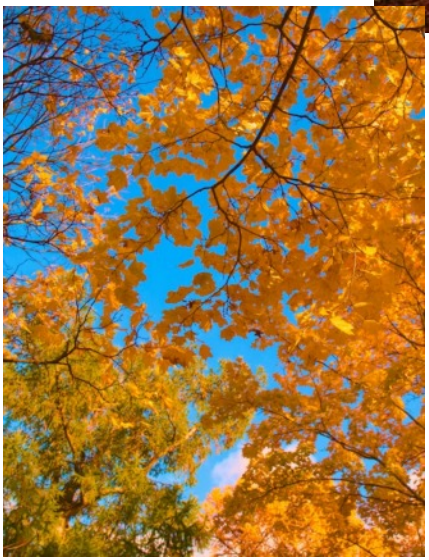
All Walkers: please read -

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 -
4 November, 2 December,
6 January, 3 February,
3 March



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Details of our Group Activities - November 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		3rd Monday	10 - 12 noon	ancient.tracks@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends Meeting House, Bakewell
Art	Linda Fussey		2nd Thursday	2 - 4 pm	art@bakewellu3a.org.uk Youlgrave Reading Room
Big Issues	John Hooper		3rd Thursday	10 - 12 noon	bigissues@bakewellu3a.org.uk Various homes
Birding Short Walks	Jane Burgess		1st 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		2nd Tuesday	2 - 4 pm	book.group@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell
Bridge					bridge@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Chatsworth Group	Peter Holt				chatsworth@bakewellu3a.org
Cooking by Men	Ainslie Kelly		2nd Tuesday	5.30 - 7.30 pm	Lady Manners School cooking.by.men@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Craft	Gill Roberts		2nd Wednesday	2 - 4 pm	craft@bakewellu3a.org.uk Friends' Meeting House
Environment Group					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.			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		12th of month	12 noon	nomaadiclunches@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Sam Lewis		2nd Wednesday	10.00 - 12 noon	philosophy@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Photography	Neil Sharples Allen Flatman		1st Friday	10.00 - 12 noon	photography@bakewellu3a.org.uk Bakewell Parish Church
Poetry	Anne Gould		2nd Tuesday	2.00 pm	poetry@bakewellu3a.org.uk 3 Brookside, Bakewell
Keep using your French	Liz Gelanos		1st Tuesday	10 - 12 noon	french@bakewellu3a.org.uk
Scrabble					
Sharing my Garden	Glenys Moore		3rd Tuesday		Various gardens 01629 636477
Sketching for fun	John Hooper		1st 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		2nd Monday	2pm	Friends' Meeting House
Walking	Rosemary Wolfe		See programme in the Gazette	Email: walking@bakewellu3a.org.uk	
Writing for Pleasure			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:
12 November, 10 December,
14 January, 11 February,
11 March

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

Organiser: Rosemary Wolfe

Dates: Fridays:

20 November, 22 January, 19 February, 19 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:
25 November, 27 January,
24 February, 24 March



ATTENTION ALL WALKERS

The Walkers' Christmas Lunch is on Friday, 18th December, at The Bull's Head in Monyash. As soon as I have the menu and price, I will send it out to everyone on the walkers list. ***Ann Topham***



Cookery Corner

Mincemeat Slice



A delicious alternative to the usual mince pies, freezes well.

125 gm SR flour
125 gm margarine or butter,
125 gm demerara sugar,
125 gm porridge oats, inch of salt. A good dollop of mincemeat.

Lightly grease a good sized rectangular tin.
Put flour, oats, sugar and salt in a bowl, mix well, add butter, cut into small pieces, and rub in gently to resemble breadcrumbs.
Spread half the mixture over the base of the tin and press gently.
Cover with a layer of mincemeat, and top with remaining crumble and press down gently.



Bake 200 C, 400 F, Gas 6, for about 20 minutes until firm and slightly golden brown. Mark into squares whilst still warm, and cool in tin.
Thanks to ***Irene Yarnell,*** *and apologies if this has appeared before - it does sound delicious, though.* ***Ed***

Youlgrave Cinema



Future films showing on Fridays at 7.30 pm. We meet in the Village Hall, Holywell Lane. Entrance is £5, ice creams £1.50. Please bring correct cash. Phone 01629 636477 for more information.

13 November - The Wasteman
11 December - Memoirs of a Snail
8 January - Power Ballad
12 February - All that's left of you



The Theatre Group's latest outing

Our group leader, Lindsay Jackson, does look after us; this time she arranged for group members to attend the Chatsworth Players' production of Top Girls at the Medway Centre. Here's what some group members had to say -

The Chatsworth Players' performance of Top Girls by Caryl Churchill was a tour de force. The cast, most of whom played two parts in the complex and very challenging play, were excellent.

The light, sound, stage management and direction engaged the audience who sat in close proximity to the players throughout. While the themes are challenging and hard hitting there were many moments of humour which rewarded the audience's attention.

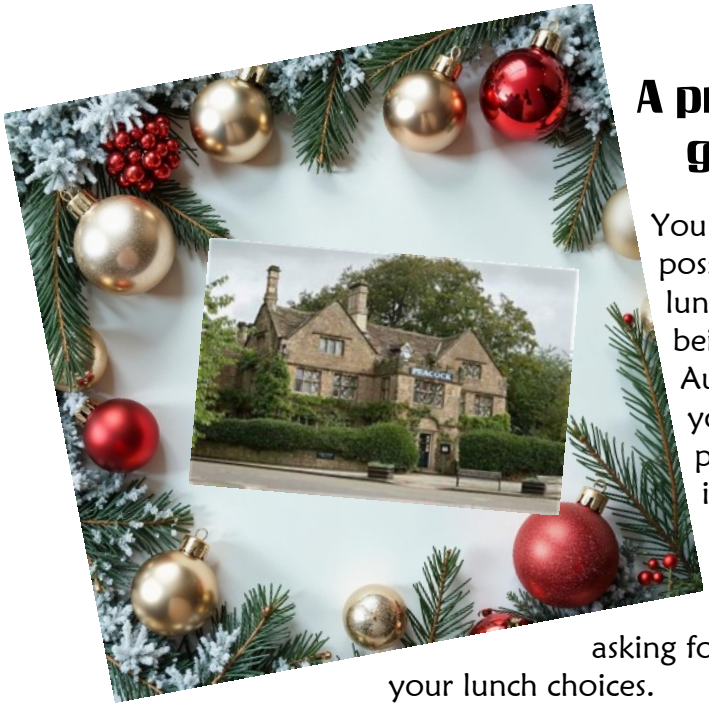


Congratulations should go to the front of house and back stage teams, and of course the cast - all worked incredibly hard.

Bernard McMahon

Top Girls was certainly an interesting play and all credit to Chatsworth Players for staging it. I was glad I'd had a chance to see it on the tv as an old Play for Today, as it gave me a better chance to understand it! I guess it was about how women were beginning to aspire to some top jobs, and with the twist near the end, it highlighted how the ones who did make it away from domesticity, relied on those who stayed at home to hold things together. **Angela Bird**





A pre-Christmas get-together

You may remember the possibility of a nice lunch at the Peacock being offered in the August Gazette. If you responded positively to this idea, you should by now have heard in a lot more detail about our lunch, asking for a deposit and your lunch choices.

IF you think you said you'd like to be involved, and you HAVEN'T heard all the detail, please give me a ring, 01629 636477, and we'll sort the matter out immediately.

Otherwise, sit back and look forward to our 3 course meal at the Peacock on Monday, 30 November.

Zoo owner to new zoo keeper: "You idiot, you left the door to the lions' cage open all night." Keeper: "So what? Who's going to steal a lion?"

A man walks up to a house, knocks on the door and says, "Hello, I'm looking for the people who live here." "Well," says the man who comes to the door, "you've come to the right place."



GARDENS, HOUSES AND ART

This page is still hoping for a new owner

SHED FACTS GALORE






Back in 2022, Issue No 83, having come across what I thought was an interesting book about famous Sheds, I proceeded to tell you about some of them. The good news is that I've been helping to sort out a friend's books, after he died (that's not the good news), and I've found another book about Sheds . . .

The world's greatest chip shop was started in a shed. Harry Ramsden first started serving customers in 1928 from a wooden hut in White Cross, Guiseley, near Leeds. Three years later he moved into his "fish and chip palace", a swanky restaurant complete with fitted carpets, oak panelled walls and grand chandeliers. However, his first hut/shop still stands on its original site, adjacent to the main restaurant. Its founder passed away in 1963, but Harry would no doubt be pleased to know that his restaurant holds the Guinness World Record for being the largest fish and chip shop in the world, serving nearly a million customers a year. *(I wonder what state the carpets ended up in.)*



Sheffield Support Dogs came to do a Meg Laird Talk for us in April this year. I received the letter below from Katie, updating us on how the charity is progressing, in particular, with their new centre. I thought members might like to see the invitation and have the opportunity to visit the centre.

Feel free to respond to Katie personally, or let me know of your interest and I'll pass on your information. ***Ed***

Hi Glenys,

I hope you are well. Following our talk to your group earlier in the year we'd be delighted to have you and members of Bakewell u3a visit our new centre.

We are glad now to be able to host visitors at our new centre and I would love to invite you to our Supporters' Day on Thursday 12th November at 2 pm. This will be a chance to find out more about how your support helps us. You will be able to look around our new centre and see the progress we are making, as well as meet some of our incredible dogs, trainers and service users.

This will take place at our centre in Hillsborough:

Elsworth House, Herries Road South, Sheffield, S6 1QS

If any of your group would like to attend, you would be very welcome - please just let me know the names of anyone who would like to come.

Best wishes,

Katie Williamson
Community Fundraising Assistant
Support Dogs - for autism, for epilepsy, for disability
www.supportdogs.org.uk
0114 261 7800
Registered Charity No. 1088281





Ooh, me back!!



Me back's too bad for the garden. I'm sick of pulling up weeds.
I think I'll go down to the market, and treat meself to some seeds.
I'll plant 'em all in the greenhouse, they'll all become pretty flowers
And later on in the springtime, I'll be pricking out for hours.



Me back's too bad for the garden. I'm fed up with cutting grass;
But if I don't get it all mowed today, I'll get a belt from me lass.
I wish the lawn was all concrete, then all it would need was a brush.
No mower, no shears, no strimmer, no clipping the bits round the bush.

Me back's too bad for the garden, me tomato plants have all died.
They were watered too much, they didn't turn red, now they're drying off on the side.
Me pinks have turned brown, me begonias too, me fingers never were green,
And though I spend hours tending me flowers, they're not the best you have seen.



Me back's too bad for the garden, I've had enough of wielding me 'oe
And if that's not enough, I missed with me spade, and took the end off me toe.



I've laboured and toiled till me fingers are numb, me knees are beginning to swell
And the rubbish I dumped by the fence last week has really started to smell.

Me back's too bad for the garden, I guess it'll never be right,
But I've got to get on, get the gardening done, I don't want it looking a sight.
So I'll just keep on digging and weeding, and tidying up every bed
With a bit of luck it'll start to rain and I'll go watch the telly instead.



Perhaps after all it was worth it, it looks really nice in the sun,
And though I know I'm no Monty Don, it's the best that I could have done. ***Anon***

And thanks to Rick Naylor

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 suggest they try out a Group meeting.
Email - email.the.gazette@googlemail.com

Members' Gardens

Visiting Sue and Malcolm Fordyce's garden



Sue and Malcolm Fordyce live in an 18th century cottage at the top of a steep valley in Wensley. They have been there since 1995 and tell me it was already a well established garden when they moved in.

From the garden the land descends steeply to almost the bottom of the valley, and the garden has three levels, each accessed by a steep path. Malcom describes how the area, including their garden, is littered with lead mine shafts, and on occasion they have had collapses leaving big holes, resulting in visits from interested authorities wanting to investigate.

The house is set on a generous level site and has flowering cottage plants such as cosmos along the walls. There is then a good sized flat, sheltered area of lawn enclosed by well cut shrubs and trees. Multiple Yew trees are planted throughout the garden, and there are other flowers around, mostly roses and sedums

On the lawn and around the garden are scattered lovely old stone urns and troughs, filled with flowering annuals such as petunias.



The lawn is a sitting area with table and chairs and it catches the sun very nicely. From the lawn a path leads

to a greenhouse which is south facing, perfect for growing plants like tomatoes.

On the next level, below the lawn area, plants and shrubs grow, but it is being slowly returned to grass.

Sue and Malcolm advised me not to descend to the very bottom level despite the handrail, because of the steep slippery path. This layer had been their fruit garden, but they have now moved their blackcurrants, strawberries and raspberry bushes up to a top bed under their front wall, making for much easier and safer access. There are still a lovely old pear tree and a Bramley apple tree on the lowest layer.



Sue tells me that, like most of us, they are gradually cultivating less of their garden and have made changes. Next to their front wall a new bed has been dug which is ideal for growing vegetables and fruit. It catches the sun and is more accessible.

The whole effect of this garden is charming; its charm is greatly enhanced by the stunning view Sue and Malcolm have across to the other side of the valley. During my visit, the sun was shining on green meadow and trees. Apparently, it is known locally as the toothbrush!



This garden is interestingly unlike more conventional gardens; on the day of my visit it was delightfully serene, and I could have sat there all day. Thank you, Sue and Malcolm. ***Alison Stuart***

Thank you, Alison, for all your efforts on the "gardening" front. It is very much appreciated. Ed



November

by Elizabeth Coatsworth

November comes and
November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

With night coming early
and dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
and frost by the gate.

The fires burn
and the kettle sings,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring.



A Love Poem: November

by Caroline Mellor

Take me to the woods in November,
let's walk in the gentle peace of the trees.
Their resin smell, their dark, mushroomed trunks,
the quiet grace with which they let go their leaves.

November

by Thomas Hood

No sun — no moon!
No morn — no noon —
No dawn — no dusk — no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member —
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! —

November!



November

by Emily Dickinson

Besides the autumn poets sing,
A few prosaic days
A little this side of the snow
And that side of the haze.

A few incisive mornings,
A few ascetic eyes, —
Gone Mr. Bryant's golden-rod,
And Mr. Thomson's sheaves.

Still is the bustle in the brook,
Sealed are the spicy valves;
Mesmeric fingers softly touch
The eyes of many elves.

Perhaps a squirrel may remain,
My sentiments to share.
Grant me, O Lord, a sunny mind,
Thy windy will to bear!

November

by John Clare

Sybil of months, and worshipper of winds,
I love thee, rude and boisterous as thou art;
And scraps of joy my wandering ever finds
Mid thy uproarious madness—when the start
Of sudden tempests stirs the forest leaves
Into hoarse fury, till the shower set free
Stills the huge swells. Then ebb the mighty heaves,
That sway the forest like a troubled sea.
I love thy wizard noise, and rave in turn
Half-vacant thoughts and rhymes of careless form;
Then hide me from the shower, a short sojourn,
Neath ivied oak; and mutter to the storm,
Wishing its melody belonged to me,
That I might breathe a living song to thee.



There seem to be 100s of them





I began to notice it a few months ago - I think it probably started with all the very nice fuss about our favourite national treasure, Sir David Attenborough, and his birthday celebrations on 8 May. And, of course, the late Queen had been mentioned on 21 April. On the 1 June we were told about Marilyn Monroe, and just before that, on 26 May, we heard about Miles Dewey Davis, American trumpeter, bandleader, composer, and painter, who is among the most influential and acclaimed figures in the history of jazz and 20th-century music.



And then there's one of my all time favourites, Pooh Bear. A A Milne's children's book, Winnie-the-Pooh, was published by Methuen & Co on 14 October. And I've also heard about Claude Monet, who died on 5 December.



They all did SOMETHING 100 years ago this year, whether being born or dying, or being created. There just seem to be so many 100 year anniversaries being mentioned this year. And when I began to look into it a bit further, there were more people to add to the list, as well as technological developments worth noting.





Fidel Castro was born on 13 August, sharpshooter, Annie Oakley died on 3 November, Rudolph Valentino died on 23 August, at 31.

On 31 October, escapologist and illusionist, Harry Houdini, died from sepsis, after suffering a ruptured appendix

And the technological stuff? Well -



On 26 January, Scottish inventor John Logie Baird gave the first ever demonstration of a television at his laboratory in London for members of the Royal Institution and a reporter for The Times *(this one is probably not the first one, but it looks pretty old to me)*.



On 7 March, the first transatlantic phone call, from London to New York, was completed.

On 3 August, Britain's first traffic lights come into use at Piccadilly Circus, London.

And other interesting stuff?

On 25 September, the 1926 Slavery Convention was signed by the League of Nations in Geneva, to abolish slavery and the slave trade in all its forms.



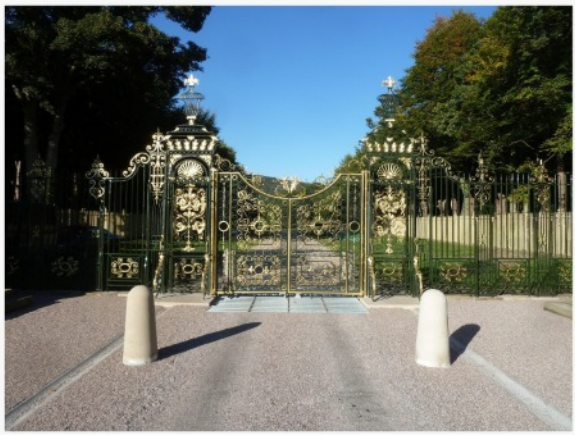
The Royal Ballet School, a British school of classical ballet training was founded in 1926 by the Anglo-Irish ballerina and choreographer Ninette de Valois *(I couldn't find an exact date)*.

Between 4 and 12 May, the 1926 United Kingdom general strike took place, in the coal industry and rapidly escalated; the unions called out 1,750,000 workers, mainly in the transport and steel sectors, although the strike was successfully suppressed by the government.

It just seemed very odd - I don't remember a year when so many 100 year anniversaries of various types kept being mentioned - perhaps I listen to too much Radio 4.

Oh, and although it wasn't mentioned on the Today Programme, this is the 100th edition of the Bu3a Gazette. Ed

Bakewell u3a
Chatsworth Group



THE Golden Gates

Andrew Renwick from Ridgeway Forge

Andrew is a local blacksmith with workshops in Sheffield. He and his work colleagues have completed commissions for many Historic Royal Palaces. Andrew's pinnacle project was to renew the Golden Gates at Chatsworth. He will describe this assignment in detail and share with us the ups and downs of running a small business dealing with high status organisations.

Wednesday, 18th November 2026 | 2PM
Venue: Friends Meeting House, Chapel Row, Bakewell DE45 1EL
There is no charge for this event.
Tea and coffee available afterwards.

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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