



**December 2020**

## **Committee Christmas Message**

Dear All

BDU3A Committee sends everyone very best wishes for this extraordinary Christmastime. We sincerely hope you all manage to spend some time with your nearest and dearest.

We are sure that every single one of you is hoping and praying for a healthier New Year and the chance to meet and greet our friends once more.

We will continue to follow Government Guidelines, adjust our plans accordingly, and will keep everyone informed as quickly as possible when things change.

Finally, we thank all of you for your continued support and all the contributions, uplifting stories, and photos for the website. Please keep them coming!

Until we meet again,  
Stay Safe, Stay Well

Bev, Sarah, Jean, Jen, Julie, Peter and Gwen



## 1 Year Ago

### The Carnarvon Arms.

Around this time last year, the bdu3a National Trust group arranged a visit to Hardwick Hall, enjoying their Christmas displays and then continuing to the Carnarvon Arms at Fackley for a Christmas dinner. Apologies to anyone missing that pre-Christmas, Christmas dinner.

I know we enjoyed our meal and in particular the desert, for which we chose a roulade.

I for one had not tried a roulade before and have since made too many returns to this dish, via the local supermarket.

This year's re-run has not been possible, but we are looking forward to a 2021 Christmas meal, with the company of our good friends of the u3a. (If we can persuade Pat, Maggie, and Sue to sort a visit out again)

We will raise a Christmas glass to absent friends and the coming vaccine!!



**The bdu3a Village Gardeners** are planning a garden area next to the Bowling Pavilion at Hillstown Village Hall. As it's very overgrown and needs some old scrap equipment removing, it will be a long-term project. Ideal for 2021, outside in the summer months.

The Future.

As part of the Village Hall's plans, to improve our little spot in England, we have secured some trees and hedging from the Woodland Trust, eventually making a lovely place to enjoy the fruits of our labour and a cup of tea.

The aim is to soften the edges of the playing field with a stand or two of trees and hedging. This will improve the look of the area and help the environment and nature.

By linking with the Woodland Trust, we will be planting native trees best suited to our environment and we will be doing our little bit towards the national target for tree planting.

The trees will be delivered in March 2021 and we will be looking for volunteers to help us plant the trees and shrubs.

Kevin.



Jean's Strollers have managed to keep up regular outdoor walks. It's been a little wet and windy but well attended and splitting up into smaller groups when more than six of us ventured out kept thing going.

I have been a number of the walks and it so nice just to get out and meet up for a chin wag.

bdu3a member.

## 2019 Christmas present survey.



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For those members who attended the u3a monthly meeting at Hillstown last December, you may remember a small Christmas survey was made about your favourite presents, the ones that stuck in your mind. Here are some of the findings I'm sure some of you will remember.

By far the most popular presents were dollies, not surprising, as most who came to the meeting were ladies. Nuts and fruit came a close second. I found it strange several replies said 'Orange and a Walnut'.

Annuals were very popular like the Beno, Eagle, Film Show, Bunty, Rupert Bear, Black Beauty and colouring books were all mentioned.

Meccano sets / Dolls houses / Dolls prams / Train sets / Bus conductors set / Post office sweet shops / Jig saws-all did very well. Someone was given a Cliff Richard record.

Sandra had a great tale of her favourite present, a school desk made by her dad from a tea chest. She was so thrilled and it was her best present ever. Another member put 'a very basic homemade wooden ship' oh dear, never quite ticked the box then.

I had a David Nixon magic set and small tins of Swift toffees bought with the 'divi' from the Co-op. My father had packets of Woodbine cigarettes and a bottle of rum from my mother.

I remember the house parties when relatives later turned up for tea. Tinned salmon, tinned pears, and blancmange were all set out with bread and butter. Later a bit of twisting to Adam Faith followed by some David Whitfield, mother's favourite and only at Christmas, we would bring out the Warninks Advocaat and Babycham, not in the same glass! Wow! how things have changed.



Have a fabulous Christmas, stay warm and cosy, things are getting better, new horizons and enjoying retirement again is just around the corner, come on 2021, you have never been more welcome. I must book my chimney sweep.

See you soon Kevin x