

**LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN DENISE
IN HUKANUI/HAMUA WI –
Our New Zealand Link WI
AND JULIA IN BASLOW WI**

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: Baslow WI January 2019



Dear Denise and Hukanui-Hamua Darlings,

Yesterday we had the first meeting of our Centenary Year and Jane's report is attached.

Here are a few explanations for you regarding some of the local and historic things mentioned: Carsington Water and Rother Valley are both local reservoirs with their own sailing clubs. Nell Hall was Kate's mother and there is a definite resemblance. Nell was a previous WI President, as was Kate. Skidmore's was a well-known shop in Bakewell selling meat, game, fruit and veg, eggs. We were even offered puppies when they had a litter! They would have pheasants, ducks, geese, rabbits, hares etc. hanging up outside the shop. The last Skidmores to run the shop were three brothers, all unmarried. They were definitely characters and could 'spin a yarn'. Hygiene wasn't high on their list of priorities but they did have good produce.

There are lots of interesting and fun events planned for the year. The Team has been working very hard and continues to do so.

The Hall was packed with quite a few ladies wanting to join. Will have to check where we are up to now with membership.

Our speaker yesterday had done the first two legs of the race: UK to South America and then the second leg to South Africa. According to him the two basic criteria for eligibility are a pulse and a wallet! Martin paid £16,000 for the two legs and on top of that had to pay for his own food and accommodation for the stopover of two weeks, plus his flight home from South Africa. Interestingly, about 40% of the crews on the 12 yachts were female.

Elaine's beautiful bag was not one of the raffle prizes yesterday. I suspect Christine is saving it for a special occasion. It was such a busy meeting yesterday, I didn't have a chance to enquire. Will find out and let you know.

With my Senior Citizens hat on, I am off to The Crucible Theatre in Sheffield this afternoon to see 'Kiss me Kate'. It has had very good write ups. Transport is by coach and we are dropped off outside the theatre, so all very easy. At Senior Citizens we now have 10 members aged 90+. One couple, both 92, are due to celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary in June. Mustn't do too much forward planning at these ages. There must be something good in the air and/or the water round here!

Hope you all have a great 2019 with good health and happiness for you and your families.

Lots of love from
Julia and all the Baslow WI Darlings xx

From: Denise Gavin
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:28 PM
To: Julia Warne
Subject: Hello there

Dear Julia and the Baslow Darlings,

Again, thank you all so very much for the Christmas parcels. They are all just gorgeous. I have put my Christmas tree ornament away safely for next year. The shopping bags are great too. Will have a lucky door prize after the presents have all been given out – will be able to do that at our next meeting I think. Our supermarkets are now 'single use plastic bag free', so we take our canvas bags when shopping. I do miss the plastic bags though. Great for rubbish etc. Maybe they could get a cheap hemp version going – by product from cannabis!!!!

Thank you for the explanations – would have been very lost otherwise! Sailing Clubs on reservoirs, now that's a new one for me! Almost matches the Alice Springs Sailing Club in Australia – only water in the Todd River is after big rains and that isn't very often!

More new members for you in your Centenary Year. Do you think Baslow has one of the highest memberships for villages in WI in the UK? There are some institutes over here with numbers in the 80s but they are in 'retirement' suburbs/towns and I don't envisage Baslow as being somewhere known for retirees? However, I could be wrong – it has been known!!!

Word of mouth is obviously working with your interesting meetings and speakers attracting new members. Well done Darlings.

Ron, a friend of mine sailed in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race which starts on Boxing Day from Sydney, a few years ago. There was terrible weather and only 8 boats of the 30-odd finished. Sadly, one boatie was lost overboard. I just can't see what they get out of it. Ron is married to my dear friend Pat from Adelaide. She was to book to fly to Hobart to meet the boats and didn't know what to do as they were thinking of cancelling the race and sending everyone back to Sydney, but somehow those 8 yachts made it safely to port and she flew down there to meet him. Ron hasn't done the race again!!

Summer is warm here, but still wet at times which hampers hay making. We are waiting for neighbours' paddocks to be cut and one of ours too, but it is going into baleage (cut and wrapped in plastic). Turns it into a lovely sweet smelling (well I think so!) silage which the stock love. Just have to have fine days to cut it firstly though! The contractors have just come for a look at our paddock, so it must be on the horizon. Maybe the weather gods will play ball.

Our next meeting is at Colleen's home just out of Masterton on Wednesday 30th January. This will be the February meeting!

Wow, 10 Seniors over 90 is great for your Senior Citizen's group. Yes, you can't plan too far ahead at that age. My Aunt Ev was to turn 90 a few years ago on the Friday. Family had arranged a party on the Saturday for her. Aunt Ev received the Prime Minister's certificate for 90 years on the Friday and passed away in her sleep that night. Ev was longest liver in her generation – my Mum passed away at 75.

Ayla is here asleep at present. She took her time to go down.

We have had shearers here over Christmas/New Year and have just one more day now to finish it all. Wool isn't worth much here at present, just about pays for the shearers and that is all. Thankfully the meat fetches good prices.

Haven't heard of bad weather in the UK, so your winter must be mild compared to previous years – however, I guess it is only 1/2 way through.

So, take care and keep well

Love to you all from
Denise and the H-H Darlings x x x