

UNDER THE EDGE

INCORPORATING THE PARISH MAGAZINE
GREAT LONGSTONE, LITTLE LONGSTONE,
ROWLAND, HASSOP, MONSAL HEAD, WARDLOW

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In Their Master's Steps They Trod, Where the Snow Lay Dinted



Colby Burke took this photo last February, the only snow we had that winter. Who knows what this winter will bring?

UTE Gains a New Treasurer

We're delighted to announce that our appeal last month for a replacement for Richard Carter (who is sadly having to leave the village) resulted in two volunteers coming forward.

Under the Edge's new Treasurer is Alan Colley from Totley, who has been walking his two collies in the Longstones several times a week for some years.

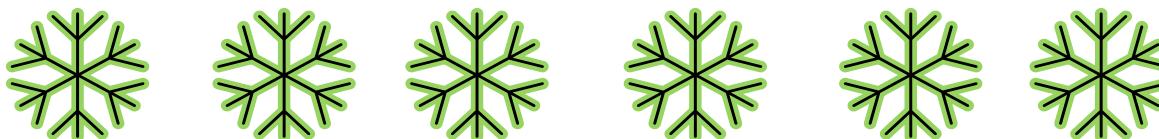
January Gardening Notes

As I write this in mid-December, the weather is wet with more to come in the forecast – not particularly cold, just the occasional frost. I still potter around in the borders to keep them tidy and top dressed with compost, getting ready for the spring flowering, which seems to happen earlier every year – the snowdrops and crocus will be the first to flower. The mahonia, which bears yellow flowers, was a show, but it just takes one sharp frost to kill off the flowers. I always trim this back after flowering, and it comes back strong for next year's display. I have two water butts on my greenhouse to collect rainwater, but I'm thinking of getting larger ones, so that I can store more water for the summer watering – last year's summer was so dry. The lilies in my greenhouse, which I have mentioned previously, really are a show and the attached photo was taken in mid-December. I have some orchids in the house that sit on a north-facing window cill, and they are all sending out new flowering shoots – the flowers last for weeks. I immerse them in water for an hour once a week and put in a drop of liquid feed, and they look really healthy.

It is time to start thinking about sowing seeds, especially onions and leeks, which have a long growing season, and also broad beans for an early crop. Sweet peas can be sown,

but I shall wait till February or March before sowing mine. Now that we have the green light with the allotments, I believe that there is only one allotment holder that wishes to not continue, and some of the other plots will be split in two. All the plots are taken, so I look forward to seeing some new faces this year.

Andy Hanna

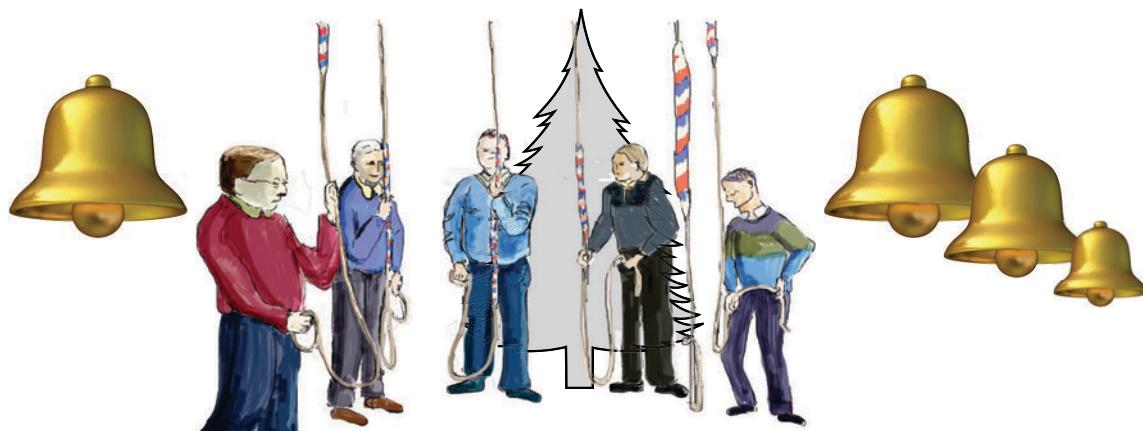


Festive Ashford Bells

Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water



Saturday 3 January 2026, 2-4pm



***Drop in to listen and watch - try the handbells
Entrance Free***



Wardlow Lights Up for Christmas!



Thanks to Ali Plowright for these dazzling photos of Wardlow houses in full festive fig

A Right Old Ding Dong in St Giles and the White Lion!



25 bell ringers from all over the Peak District of the Derby Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers came to St Giles on Saturday 13th December to ring the afternoon away. This was followed by a Carol Service led by our very own Rev Clive Thrower, a longtime bell ringer himself. Disappointingly, *Ding Dong Merrily on High* did not feature in the carols, but Clive had written this special prayer for the service, full of bell-ringing allusions:

A Bell Ringers' Prayer

*In the long touch of life,
Let's learn to keep our place within the band
Have fun and never hear an early 'Stand',
But hear the Great Conductor's final call
Our changes done; into rounds – 'This is all'.
'Well done!'*



The ringers then repaired to the White Lion for a pie and pea supper, where they were made very welcome by Buster and Pauline. They pronounced themselves most impressed by the military precision in which the food appeared, piping hot, especially as there was another group of 45 farmers also celebrating there that night!

The Light of the World

A Christingle is an object used during Advent and Christmas to symbolise the birth of Christ, the Light of the World. A modern Christingle is made from a candle (the Light) in an orange (the World), typically decorated with a red ribbon and sweets or dried fruits. The tradition dates back to

1747 in Germany, when the Moravian Bishop, Johannes

de Watteville, started it in 'an attempt to get children to think about Jesus'. As members of Moravian churches moved away from their home congregations, the custom of Christingles was introduced to other denominations, and it was popularised in this country by John Pensom in 1968, to help raise funds for The Children's Society.

Longstone School, being a Church of England foundation, takes part in a Christingle service in St Giles every year. The children make their own Christingles at school and bring them to church. This year it was on Monday 8th December.



Our Transport Future lies with the Mayor - Your Views are Needed



The Long Eaton North by-election, which took place on 2nd December, was a close run thing. Reform's Owen Ferron won by just 23 votes from the Conservative candidate (28% to 27%). In the May 2025 election, the Reform candidate won 36% of the vote, while the next nearest was Labour with 24%. Turnout dropped to 29% from an already low 36% in May.

The Reform councillor who resigned was Jack Bradley, the cabinet member responsible for announcing the closure of five adult education centres, including Community House, Long Eaton. Owen Ferron is well known in Long Eaton as the founder of Insights Community CIC, which runs a weekly youth club that uses Community House. Although adult education classes at Community House have ceased, the centre is still used for a number of community activities, and it remains to be seen if Councillor Ferron can persuade his party to keep the centre open, rather than selling it.

Campaigning for the Horsley by-election, due to take place on 20th January, is well underway. Richard Morgan, the previous incumbent, apparently attended the first County Council meeting after his election in May, and one round of parish council meetings, at several of which he was heard expressing surprise that there were so many parish councils in his division. He was never seen again.

There is little positive to report about Council matters. Not content with closing adult education centres, they are now planning a consultation on adult education services, which includes a proposal to outsource the provision entirely. The December Council Meeting was a shameful affair, but your correspondent has not had time to watch the whole thing, so a full report will be made in next month's UTE.

Much more positive is the future of public transport in our region, responsibility for which is moving to the East Midlands Mayor, Claire Ward, in April 2026. The Mayor is genuinely keen to improve public transport in our region, and welcomed a recent protest in her Chesterfield office from the East Midlands Better Buses campaign, where we

sang some bus-themed Christmas songs and handed over our petition, asking her to take our buses back into public control. In a Facebook post, the Mayor said 'Crucially, they also read out some stories from real people across the region who struggle to access reliable or affordable public transport. I really appreciate them coming together as a collective to ask for better buses, and engaging with my Big Transport Conversation.'

The Mayor has substantial amounts of funding available to improve public transport across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and has launched a public consultation to try and gain insight into the transport needs of local residents. It's well-known that the squeakiest wheels usually get the most attention, and this is where we in the Longstones have a real chance to improve our bus services. Many of our local bus contracts are up for renewal in October 2026, which gives the Mayor an opportunity to ask for service improvements. She will only do this if she thinks there is a demand for better buses in our area.

If you are a current bus user, please respond to the consultation and tell the Mayor what improvements you'd like. If you're not a bus user, then respond to the Mayor and tell her why not. Do you need our village bus to run more frequently, at night or on Sundays? Do you want better bus-rail connections? Even if you have no intention of ever taking the bus, and plan to drive (or walk, or run or cycle) everywhere, remember that if more of us use the buses, it means clearer roads for you. You can find out more about the Mayor's Big Transport Conversation and fill in the survey here: eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk/mayors-transport-plan. The consultation runs until 8th February, so make a New Year's Resolution to fill it in, and you'll have ticked off a resolution in January. I will be at the January LEAP Book Swap Café to help anybody who has difficulty completing the consultation online.

Georgina Blair

The Old Infant School Building – Use it or Lose it!

This landmark building, in the centre of the village, is once again available for hire for community purposes. This is now a 'use it or lose it' opportunity. If no proposals come forward the building will almost certainly be permanently lost as a community asset.

A couple of years ago a well-attended meeting in the Village Hall showed that there was a strong feeling that a new use should be found for the building and that it should be kept as a community asset. At the time suggestions included: Arts and Crafts Space, Sports Space/Gym, 'Men's Shed', a Music Room, and a return to being a Pre-School/Nursery.

Full details of the building are on the website of the agents, rensurveyors.co.uk.

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If anyone wants help with putting together a proposal, please do contact me at simon@headington.net, as I'll be happy to help.

Simon Headington

Join the Parish Council!

If you are looking for a new way of getting involved with our community, please do look at volunteering for the Parish Council.

As the closest level in our system for local government, the Parish Council has played a key role in the village for over 130 years, but it can only keep going if we get more volunteer councillors.

The village greens, churchyard, recreation ground and allotments are just some of the Council's responsibilities, but also key is representing the community in dealings with other authorities.

When the Parish Council first met in 1895, the next level of local government was Bakewell Rural District Council,

with a combined population of under 5,000 people. Once the government's current reorganisation has been completed, the next level up will be either a North Derbyshire or a single authority for the whole of Derbyshire authority, with populations of roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ million or 1 million people respectively.

All this means that the role of the Parish Council in managing village assets and representing the community will become more important than at anytime since it was created.

To find out more about what is involved, please speak to any of the councillors or myself, call me on **07968 295258**, or email clerk@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk.

Simon Headington, GLPC Clerk



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Glad Tidings of Great Joy at The Monsal



The Monsal's 'Wreath & Wrap' event on 2nd December well and truly delivered. It was a wonderful evening of community, creativity and Christmas cheer, and the canteen was buzzing with creative energy, festive spirit and a flurry of industrious activity!

A huge thank you to Sam, Lauren and Hannah for an inspiring masterclass in wreath making – our guests loved



crafting their own beautiful creations to hang proudly on their doors.

Our wrapping station for Age UK spread warm wishes far and wide, while Friends of Longstone School powered through over 130 Funtime Cups for their Christmas Fair on the Friday.

Lorraine Statham

Santa Comes to Hassop Farm



On Saturday 29th November, I popped into Hassop Farm to find Judy Dilks and her daughter Charlotte hosting Santa. It was a wet morning, but there was so much to do, with a mud kitchen, colouring, toasted marshmallows and much more



for both children and parents. Santa and his helpers were happy and busy, and Santa's tractor caused great excitement. Watch out for the Easter Bunny, who will be visiting in April!

Ali Plowright

FOLS Christmas Bazaar



It was all go at the FOLS Christmas Bazaar in the School's Sports Hall on 5th December, which raised over £1,000 for the School.

There were loads of stalls, with games, cakes, drinks (mulled wine for the grown ups), Santa's grotto and a raffle,

some very hard-working elves on the 'Guess what's in the box' stall, and the most enormous reindeer you've ever seen on the soft toy stall. You could even send a letter to Santa! Lord and Lady Edward Manners had donated a beautiful Christmas tree. **Ali Plowright**

Join the Fun – Help Oxfam Make a Difference!

Are you looking for a rewarding way to meet new people, have fun, and make a real difference in the world? Bakewell Oxfam Fundraising Group is looking for new volunteers to join our friendly and enthusiastic team!

Our group has already enjoyed great success with events such as the ever-popular Open Gardens, the lively Jazz Breakfast, and our many sales that bring the community together while raising vital funds for Oxfam's work fighting poverty and inequality around the world.

Volunteering with Oxfam doesn't require a big commitment – we meet just every few months to plan upcoming events, and you can do as much or as little as you wish. Whether you're a seasoned organiser or just someone who enjoys

helping out, every contribution is valued. It's not all hard work either! There's a wonderful sense of camaraderie in the group, and we enjoy plenty of social occasions too – from restaurant meals to safari suppers and other fun get-togethers.

If you'd like to get involved, meet friendly, like-minded people, and help raise funds for a great cause, why not come along to our next meeting at The Friends Meeting House in Bakewell? You might just find yourself part of something truly special.

For more information, please contact Glenys Moore on **01629 636477, 07812 422207** or email glenysannmoore@googlemail.com. **Daryl Green**

Companion/Carer

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One Parish – Many Townships

Most readers of UTE will be aware that our most local level of governance is the Parish Council in Great Longstone, and the Parish Meetings in Hassop, Little Longstone, Rowland and Wardlow. You may also know that these have operated continuously for over 130 years, since 1894. But what came before this? I had thought that prior to the creation of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings that local administration in the UTE area had all been handled by the Church, through our local parish based on St Giles. However, this did not explain why one ecumenical parish ended up with 5 civil parishes.

After looking into this further it looks as though I got everything back to front.

Going back to the medieval period, what passed for regional administration was organised into large areas known as Hundreds. Derbyshire had around eight, and our villages lay in the High Peak Hundred.

A Hundred covered a considerable area and was mainly a unit for courts, taxation, and militia organisation, rather than day-to-day local government. Within it, most practical administration normally followed the boundaries of ecclesiastical parishes.

However, in sparsely populated upland areas like north Derbyshire, the church parishes were much too large for effective local management, so civil administration developed instead around smaller units known as townships.

To our 21st century minds 'township' makes us think of towns, or anything that is too big to be a village and too small to be a city. A township was something different and from medieval times onwards it came to mean any self-governing village or community. A township did not require a church of its own – it was a civil unit rather than a religious one.

Some 400 years ago, when the first Poor Law and Vagrancy Acts came into force, it was Parishes and Townships that were tasked with implementing these new rules. At this time, we were part of a much larger Bakewell parish (Longstone St Giles didn't become a separate parish until 1852), so in this area it was down to townships to appoint their own officers, which included an Overseer for the Poor and later a Constable. It looks like each of our five villages operated

as a separate township, raising local taxes, looking after their own poor and managing other local tasks such as maintaining their roads and dealing with disputes. The Church continued to look after spiritual issues, but the day-to-day, civil, management of our communities was dealt with by locally elected Township officers.

When the Elizabethan Poor Law was amended in 1834, and responsibility shared across the larger area of the Bakewell Poor Law Union, each of our five townships were separately listed as participating, self-governing townships.

Moving through the Victorian period, big changes were taking place. More levels of organisation and control appeared, and whilst some older structures like the Hundreds disappeared, 1866 was the moment when any township that levied a poor rate became a civil parish by statute.

So, when Parish Councils and Parishes Meetings were created in 1894, these were not a completely new concept – they were just the most recent way in which our five villages have been managed. The structure we live with today is not a modern quirk, but the continuation of centuries of local self-government.

Thus, the Ecclesiastical Parish of Longstone St Giles was not split into five civil parishes. It was almost certainly the other way around, with the 1852 church parish being overlaid on top of the five pre-existing townships.

Simon Headington

Local Government Act of 1894

This act created Parish Councils for any civil parishes with more than 300 residents in 1891. Smaller parishes were instead given annual Parish Meetings – a gathering of all electors, who make decisions collectively.

Parish	Population	Result
Great Longstone	526	Parish Council
Little Longstone	145	Parish Meeting
Wardlow	140	Parish Meeting
Hassop	110	Parish Meeting
Rowland	57	Parish Meeting

A Thousand Years of Local Government - and the Next Big Leap for Derbyshire

In the last month, the principal councils across Derbyshire will have submitted their proposals for a government-led major reorganisation of Local Government. Both the 'Two Unitary' and 'Single Unitary' options are being submitted, and the final decision on the future structure will rest with central government. This is going to result in the tier above our communities being significantly larger and more distant from our Parish Council and Parish Meetings.

The communities of Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Rowland, Hassop and Wardlow trace their roots back into the medieval landscape of the Peak, when townships clustered around the manor and parish church. Through centuries of change, from the hundred to the Poor Law union, from the sanitary authority to the rural district, from West Derbyshire to Derbyshire Dales, the townships, and later the civil parishes, have remained constant.

But now we stand on the threshold of the largest structural change in our local government history, the reorganisation of all local services into unitary authorities.

The current map of local government in Derbyshire comprises of:

- Derbyshire County Council, a two-tier county authority that is the top layer for everywhere in the county, apart from Derby.
- Eight second-tier district and borough councils, including Derbyshire Dales District Council.
- A unitary authority in Derby.

The government want all services – roads, schools, social care, bins, housing, parks – to be provided by a single authority in each area and ideally they want each new authority to serve around 500,000 residents. Because Derbyshire has a population of just over a million, the county will inevitably end up with one of two options:

- A single, very large unitary council that absorbs all the other authorities – the County Council's preferred option.
- Two unitary councils, one in the north and one in the south of the county – the preferred option for the 8 District and Boroughs and Derby City Councils.

For the 1,000 people living in the five villages of the UTE area, this means the next tier up is likely to become a council still based in Matlock, but now covering a far larger area –

A historical journey: the tiers above the parish

Hundreds

From the early medieval period, until the mid 1800's, the township and parish operated inside the wider unit of the hundred (in our case the High Peak Hundred). The hundred was locally administered, its courts and muster- meetings often only a short ride away.

Poor Law Union (1834-1930)

The parishes around the Longstone area were part of the Bakewell Poor Law Union. Guardians met in Bakewell and the institution was still recognisably local in scale.

Rural Sanitary Authority (1872-1894)

Responding to public-health law, the sanitary authority again covered our cluster of parishes, still with a local focus.

Rural District Council (1894-1974)

From 1894 the Bakewell Rural District Council managed highways, housing, sanitation over many local parishes - familiar to communities like ours.

West Derbyshire District Council (1974-1987)

The 1974 reorganisation created West Derbyshire, covering a broader rural area but still centred on our part of the county.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (1987-present)

A further iteration, Derbyshire Dales remains the district layer, covering parishes such as ours and headquartered at Matlock.

Throughout all these changes the parish itself has endured, boundary changes notwithstanding, and has remained the tier closest to residents.

stretching well beyond the familiar Bakewell/Matlock basin into neighbouring districts and likely incorporating areas, including Derby, that have not previously been part of our district geography. In effect, the scale of the council governing our area will become much greater than ever before.

So, what might residents of our five parishes expect?

- Great Longstone Parish Council, and the four Parish Meetings, will still exist and remain the closest layer of democracy.
- The new unitary authority will bring major services under one roof, which may provide better co-ordination.
- A question raised is will the parish remain the meaningful local voice that it has always been? Or will the new size of the authority make parish input harder to secure?

For historical parishes such as ours, rooted in township boundaries going back centuries, this is a moment of change. The parish remains our enduring constant, while the next tier shifts into new territory. It is worth reflecting that as the scale of government grows, the value of the smallest tier of local democracy, the parish, becomes ever more important.

One anomaly is that the National Park Authority will continue to remain an independent Bakewell-based organisation. This means planning decisions within the National Park will continue to be made locally, even if other services move to a new unitary authority.

In the story of Longstone and its neighbours, the parish has seen many of reforms above it, yet has remained steadfast. Now, as the next tier grows larger than ever before, the parish stands as the last truly local link in an evolving map of governance.

Simon Headington

art Talks at Great Longstone Village Hall

With Richard Foulkes, Volunteer Guide and Researcher at Manchester Art Gallery

All talks are £5 on the door/all proceeds go to MAG /Licenced Bar



Leaps of Imagination

The art of science & the science of art

Thursday January 22nd 2026

Artists have frequently depicted scientific subject in their art works. Such as this drawing by Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903 – 1975) Theatre Group from 1947. We will also look at how artists have employed aspects of the scientific method to enhance their creative processes.



A Sculpture in the making

Thursday February 18th 2026

Exploring the visual elements of sculpture

Starting from this work Doves by Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903 – 1975) we will explore how sculptors select, use and shape materials to create 3D forms.

We will also look at how this artwork inspired a personal journey into direct carving.

Live and Local



HELIOS – a modern myth for a modern world from award-winning storytellers Wright and Grainger. Step into a world where ancient Greek legend collides with the quiet lanes of rural England and the bright pulse of the city.

HELIOS is an intimate, cinematic journey through life, memory and meaning – told with heart, humour and breathtaking storytelling. What if the tale of a boy driving the sun across the sky wasn't just a myth, but something you could feel in your chest, hear crackling from an old tape player, and watch unfold right before your eyes?

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Expect:

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- A powerful, atmospheric score
- A relaxed, intimate setting that draws you in
- A story that lingers long after the lights fade

You'll leave with the warmth of the sun on your skin and stories in your bones.

Sunday 22nd February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). Licensed Bar. Tickets £13.50 online from Leap.sumupstore.com or email Email4Leap@gmail.com.

A Hardy Volunteer and Artist – Joyce Poulter



Joyce Poulter, and with two of the men in her life, her husband John and Nick Casey

Who would have thought that sitting amid the residents of Thornhill House making their Christmas wreaths was someone who had been a member of one of the hardest of voluntary organisations – Mountain Rescue. It was when, one afternoon, Claire asked the residents what books they liked to read, and Joyce said ‘maps’ that her story came out. Joyce Poulter, now 93, remembered the numerous times she went out with the Mountain Rescue team led by her husband John, training the volunteers and rescue dogs in the hills in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Wales. She remembers spending many hours during those years being a ‘body’ lying in the heather or among the rocks on a hillside waiting for the trainee rescue dogs to find her. ‘Of course,’ she said, ‘I was well-equipped because I was not allowed to move once I had chosen a spot to hide within the designated area. So, I had food and a flask of a warm tea, thick clothes and a bivvy bag, but I didn’t wear my best outdoor gear, because often the dogs gave me a nip to make sure I was alive!’

Joyce was born in Boulton, and married John in York, before moving to Stokesley in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Joyce and John had two boys, Martin and Neil. Joyce was a teacher in York before she married, and continued teaching as head of Wirksworth Church of England Infants School after having the boys. John was a civil servant working in Chesterfield, so moving to Derbyshire was the next step. Joyce always enjoyed walking with John, so it was not surprising she joined him in his volunteer work in mountain rescue. He volunteered with Yorkshire Mountain Rescue which was part of the early national body formed in the 1950s. But in March 1964, when John heard about the death of three inadequately dressed Rover Scouts on Woodhead Pass in the Peak District, on the annual 45-50 mile Four Inns Walk, he began working towards the formation and professionalisation of mountain rescue in the Peak District. The scouts had died of hypothermia, due to

a sudden blizzard, poor conditions and poor clothing. Only 22 out of 240 participants completed the course that year.

Joyce and John settled in Great Longstone. They had both enjoyed Christine Casey’s hairdressing skills before she worked in her parents’ village shop, and it was through Christine that her brother Nick was introduced to Joyce and John. For Nick, the rest is history. Nick joined Joyce at Thornhill House one afternoon in December, to reminisce about their times training with John. They remembered being part of the Peak District Mountain Rescue team that was hired for the day as extras, filming ITV’s *Peak Practice* in the 1990s. It wasn’t quite the glamourous experience they’d hoped for! For just one 30-second perfect shot in the film, they had to carry the ‘injured’ boy on a stretcher twelve times. Another shot they were involved with still makes Joyce and Nick laugh. One of the rescue dogs was sent out to find two boys who were camping. The dog, Spider, successfully found the boys, but came out of the tent with a string of sausages, instead of barking and running back and forth as he was trained to do. No doubt, Spider thought the sausages were his reward for finding the boys, but, like all the other actors, Spider had to do another take. Nick reminded Joyce of the early days of setting up the Peak District Mountain Rescue base and equipment. They were given an old dust-covered garage in the cement works for the base, which they had to sweep out themselves, coming out looking like snowmen. They eventually acquired an old yellow van, which they insultingly called ‘The Custard Bus’, and in time acquired radios. The tragedy of 1964 prompted Mountain Rescue leaders like John and Joyce to promote better clothing and communications, and the professional training of volunteers and dogs.

As Joyce had always enjoyed walking, not to mention a challenge, she attempted The Lyke Wake Walk. John had done



John with two SARDA dogs



Mam Tor ridge

it many times and once without a map, from Osmotherley to Ravenscar. Not to be beaten, Joyce successfully completed the 40-42 miles walk across the North York Moors to the coast within the allotted time of 24 hours. Joyce always thought her map reading was better than John's, which is why 'maps' had been her response to Claire's question.

Joyce was involved in local politics, and supported the successful campaign to get Liberal Democrat representation on the town council. When Joyce was asked about her favourite pastimes in her younger days, she said 'climbing, skiing and painting.' So it wasn't surprising that she connected her love of wild landscapes with her skill of painting. In her room at Thornhill House hang three of her impressionist paintings of the wilds of Derbyshire, Wales and Yorkshire. She showed Nick one of her paintings which he identified as Mam Tor to Black Tor, viewed from Edale. Over the years, Joyce has painted over 300 landscapes in her distinctive style. One summer school holiday, Joyce and John

spent a month in France, where Joyce painted the French Alps and the Pyrenean landscapes. As Joyce said, 'John went up the mountain', confidently knowing he would return even without the need of today's mobile phone. The artwork she sold on that trip paid for their holiday. Her work was, and is, very much appreciated – three pieces have been exhibited in a London Gallery.

John had been President of the Search and Rescue Dogs Association in Wales. Nick said that Joyce was often seen painting, as John was working with the dogs. Joyce and Nick remembered all the members and a dog from the Wales Mountain Rescue team coming to John's funeral, and being touched by the rescue dog's salute to her husband's work by howling as they carried his coffin to his favourite place for burial. Joyce's paintings were often auctioned to raise funds for SARDA, which might be one reason why there are only three left to hang in her room.

Joy Thrower

Breakfast at Church Lane Farm



Thanks to Dan Cox for sending in this photo of Tom's new feeding scoop - everyone wants to get in on the act!

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17TH & 18TH JANUARY 2026

Parish Council Notes

The following are extracts from the official minutes from the GL Parish Council meeting on 11th November. These are published on the Parish Council noticeboard outside Longstone School as well as the village website greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk.

Attendance

Cllrs Jane Rigby (Chair), Phillip Barrett, James Cox, Andy Douglass, Stevie Hornsey, Simon Headington (Clerk).

Declarations of pecuniary interest

Cllr Cox declared an interest in moles on the Village Green.

Clerk's Report

Corresponded with allotment holders; worked with DDDC to arrange Housing Needs Survey; met with Longstone School Head Teacher; arranged additional equipment for recreation ground; ongoing liaison with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; annual inspection of Council assets on 12th October; met with parishioner about Christmas Eve Carols; started work on issues relating to camper vans on Longstone Edge.

Allotments

There are 15 allotments and 14 tenants. One couple hold two allotments (plots 3 & 5) and one person unofficially shares their allotment (plot 1) with another holder, who is expecting to officially take it on as their second allotment at some point. There are 3 people on the waiting list, two of whom would prefer to take on half a plot. All bar one (plot 7) have confirmed they want to continue, though 3 (plots 1, 12 & 15) would like to retain just half their current allotment. This means the availability of plots matches the outstanding requests. The council's standard tenancy agreement has been updated using the NALC model document, but with the section removed allowing chickens and rabbits, and an added strong notice about the risks associated with soil contamination in the Peak District. The following points were also agreed: rents in future to be based on a rate per square metre rate, thus allowing half-size plots; a half-plot tenant to have priority to take over the other half of the plot if it becomes available; an individual can only lease a single plot, though a couple can have one plot each; if there is no demand for vacant plots, they can be let annually to existing plot holders, but they must be surrendered at the end of the year if there is then a waiting list; when a plot holder dies, their family can tend the

plot for the rest of the year – a family member can take on the plot, providing they are not already a plot holder. The allotment holders are to be encouraged to establish an allotment society as a way of collectively representing their views to the Parish Council. The current rent review system needs reviewing as levels are thought to be a lot lower than those charged by other authorities, plus all tenants are currently charged the same rent, even though some plots are twice the size of others. The Clerk is to investigate the average rates charged by other authorities and look at charging per square metre.

Neighbourhood Plan

Monthly Steering Committee meetings continue, the next being on 17th November. The public meeting on 7th October was a great success with 80 in attendance. Three people have withdrawn from the Steering Committee, and one new person has been co-opted. There are over 120 people on the email list; regular updates are sent out. The October Book Swap café was attended, with a very positive response from people asked about the needs of older residents, and a report will be given to November Book Swap café attendees, when Marches Energy Agency will attend to give advice. Bakewell U3A are lending the village a thermal imaging camera, and a team will be trained in surveying local properties. The DDDC Housing Needs Survey has been formally launched and runs till 14th December. The Steering Committee are planning to run themed update events monthly.

Recreation Ground

Tennis Court Resurfacing Project: Two new benches have been purchased and delivered from TDP. The new notice board has been delivered and will be put up soon. The Clerk will prepare a summary of the project budget for the next meeting, and submit end of project reports to Sports England and the Better Derbyshire Fund.

Rules for use of the Tennis Court: A set of rules drafted by Cllr Barrett are to be posted on the new notice board.

GLCC request: GLCC have requested permission for Buxton 5th and Sheffield University Staff 3rd Teams to each play between 8 and 10 Saturday home matches on the Rec in summer 2026. This was approved subject to the following conditions: either the Cricket Club or LASRA obtains written evidence that the clubs have appropriate third

party liability insurance; all clubs using the Rec are made aware of the public footpaths crossing the area and that they are clear that nothing must be done to prevent legitimate access, or which places footpath users at risk; this agreement may be revoked at anytime if the use of the ground by one or both clubs is seen to be causing a nuisance within the community.

Equipment donations from GLPC: Sports equipment bought by GLPC prior to 1st April 2025, and the cricket net purchased in September, are to be donated to the Longstone Areas Sports and Recreation Association (LASRA). Sports equipment bought this year must remain the property of the GLPC, as these were grant conditions, but they will be loaned to LASRA to make them available as required.

Village Greens

Moles on West Green have been sorted out by J Cox Pest Control. The Women's Institute will no longer be able to maintain the flower bed they created in West Green next to the rubbish bin. It was suggested the churchyard volunteer group might be prepared to look at creating a suitable replacement.

Old Infant School Building

Nothing further has been heard from the owner. The Clerk will contact him for an update.

Camper Vans on Moor Road

The Clerk has contacted the PDNPA enforcement officer. While not their direct area of concern, they will support work initiated by GLPC. The Clerk is awaiting the farmer's response before setting up a site meeting for all the agencies with the potential to be involved.

Highways

Cllr Cox reported the resurfacing on residential roads to the south of Main Street has not been completed to the expected standard – at least one storm drain has been left almost completely covered in tarmac. Cllrs and the Clerk will compile a snags list for DCC's highways department. Cllr Cox reported verges along Moor Road are getting very overgrown and there are self-seeded trees in the accumulated roadside debris. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting with County Cllr Alasdair Sutton to work out how best to report the problem to the appropriate authority.

Christmas

Jim and Wendy Long's family are to donate a tree. A villager has offered to set up a sound system for the Xmas

Eve carols and co-ordinate the playing of the music. A collection will be made in aid of a village project. Volunteer marshals will be needed for the event.

Remembrance Sunday

This year's event, run by the PCC, was very well attended with around 80 being present. The Chair laid a wreath on behalf of GLPC.

Annual inspection of Council Assets

This took place on 12th October. The following actions were agreed: Clerk to write to Outrake Quarry plot holders when annual rent demands are sent out, to remind them rubbish must not be stored on the site. In some areas of Outrake Quarry, the upper 2 or 3 rows of stone on the boundary wall are coming loose. The lower part is acting as a retaining wall, but the loose sections are above ground level on both sides. The Clerk will explore options for repair. Land registration of Moor Road properties still needs to be completed. The telephone kiosk is scheduled for repainting during 2026/27. The play area noticeboard is to be re-stained. The WI Bench on Main Street is to be re-stained during 2026/27. The adjoining landowners to Bell Style Footpath are to be asked to keep overhanging branches and ivy cut back. There are six similar long (approx. 4.2m) benches in the recreation ground. They consist of three concrete vertical sections connected by three 4.2m planks. The two in a sheltered position by the buildings are in good condition, but

the wooden seats on some of the others are deteriorating. The maximum length recycled plastic plank is about 3.6m, so either the uprights need to be brought closer together or new wooden planks acquired. It was pointed out that some of the concrete uprights are also deteriorating and that an alternative solution will be needed if these will not last for as long as the replacement planks. The Clerk will investigate prices.

Planning Applications

1 Glebe Court, Glebe Avenue NP/ DDD/0325/0194. S73 application for the removal of condition 2 on NP/ DDD/0197/002. **Withdrawn**

Longstone Hall NP/DDD/0725/0657 and NP/DDD/0725/0658. Multiple changes. PDNPA Senior Conservation Archaeologist states the area of the proposed stables and garage requires a pre-determination evaluation to understand the nature, extent and level of significance of surviving archaeological remains at the site and that without this information an informed planning decision with regard to significance and the scale of impact cannot be made. Trial trenches targeting the footprint of the proposed buildings are necessary.

Gritstone House Moor Road, NP/ DDD/1025/1015. Retrospective permission for demolition, rebuild and extension of outbuilding to give habitable accommodation. This has already been carried out after earlier

permission was granted for an existing building to be extended. As this earlier building was demolished, instead of being renovated, retrospective permission is now being sought. **No comments**

Financial Matters

Total cash available £27,767 at 31st October. Cllr Hornsey pointed out that GLPC was earning no interest on the Unity account and ~1% on the RBS account. The Clerk will look into suitable interest-bearing accounts for the Council's reserves. The Council's budget was reviewed against the actual figures to date – the healthy surplus is partly because arrangements to employ the clerk on a formal basis were still outstanding. The draft budget for 2026/27 does not currently include any special projects. It is expected that the precept for 2026/27 will increase by around 4%, but the actual figure used will depend on the change to the number of Band D properties, which will be known in December. DALC Internal Audit Service has been appointed for the 2025/26 audit.

Dates of next meetings

7pm Wednesdays 14th January 2026, 11th March, 13th May.

Contact Details

Simon Headington, Clerk to Great Longstone Parish Council, Church Croft, Church Lane, Great Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1TB. Tel: **07968 295258**. Email: clerk@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk

Little Longstone Parish Notes

The following are extracts from the official minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26th November in Little Longstone Chapel.

Present: Mr J Cotterill (Chair), Cllr H Froggatt, Mr K Adamson, Mrs L Cooper, Ms K Askew, Mrs A Plowright, Mr G Brooke, Mr S Robertson, Mrs C Cotterill, Mrs E Lee and Mrs S Stokes (Parish Clerk). Apologies were received from Mrs J Gledhill, Ms G Blair, Mrs J Blair, Mr J Longsden and Caroline Leatherday (Director of Governance and Corporate Services at DDDC). Cllr Froggatt introduced herself to the meeting and offered to help on any bin, council tax etc issues, she is at the end of a phone or email, and is also happy to help chase County issues. The Clerk feels she can approach Cllrs at both County and District level for help on matters.

Financial Matters

Payments approved: TW Cox Post work £240, Allen West and Foster Audit £396, Troway Hall Nursery Xmas trees £270, Bruno Cardona Mow/strim (inc. chapel) £1870, James Cox Mow/strim £1095, T W Cox Parish grit bin refill £72, Little Longstone Congregational chapel room hire £80, Sarah Stokes (Parish Clerk) – admin £1620, back pay £108, expenses £224 (includes wreath, printer ink etc.). Xmas trees ordered for week 24th November.

Bank and Savings accounts: The Clerk will visit the Mansfield Building Society branch to update the amount in the savings book.

Local projects grant: Thanks to Cllr Froggatt for £200 for the new bunting. The Cllr stated that application for next year's funds can be made from February.

Clerks pay: Nalc Salary award 2025/26, inc. back pay from April 2025

– pay scale 17 has risen from £15.58 per hour to £16.08 per hour.

Clerk's pay scale to be reviewed at the next meeting, and any changes to start in next financial year.

Donations/funds/projects/subscriptions: It was noted that the Section 137 amount was £11.10 per person on electoral roll 2025/26 – the amount this year is £744 based on an electorate of 67. The Chair is to make a donation of £250 from the Chair's fund, following the request for a donation to the chapel for the small xmas trees, new lights etc. The following subscriptions were agreed: Under the Edge £850, Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport £1,000, LEAP £850. LASRA to receive £744 from S137 and £106 from the Chair's fund. The replacement cricket practice net and the plastic benches had now been purchased by LASRA/GLPC for the GL Rec, using the surplus funds from LLPM.

Longstone Area Neighbourhood Plan

This covers Great and Little Longstone only and covers many subject areas. The plan was approved under regulation 6 of the Local Government Act 2011. LLPM Members approved the application to designate Great Longstone and Little Longstone parishes as the Longstone Area Neighbourhood Area, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, in accordance with the following documents dated 11th August 2025: LANP Map area; LANP SC Terms of reference; LANP Application to PDNPA. A Member stated asked if broadband could be looked into as it was an issue. It had been raised at the last NP public meeting, but it is a big issue at the chapel/Monsal end of the village. The Clerk will ask Cllr Froggatt for her help on this matter.

Monsal Head

DDDC Monitoring Officer: The Clerk and the Chair had a very useful face-to-face meeting with Caroline Leatherday, DDDC Director of Governance and Corporate Services, and the Clerk and Chair feel they can approach the Officer for guidance in the future. Following the meeting Caroline sent a letter with these key points: The Chair of the Parish Meeting and the Proper Officer of the District Council together form a body corporate by the name of 'The Parish Trustees of Little Longstone'. The trustees must act in accordance with any directions given by the parish meeting. Little Longstone parish owns the freehold land at Monsal Head, Bakewell, under HM Land Registry title DY457210, with the Parish Trustees as the registered proprietor. The Proper Officer will execute the lease on the short-term car park, in their role as a Parish Trustee, but not advise, as this is a DDDC lease. The Officer will take no part in the decision making with regards to the lease from the DDDC side. It is not considered necessary for the Office to attend routine meetings, but there may be occasions when it may be helpful for an Officer to attend. All agendas and minutes should be circulated to the Officer, to ensure the Parish Trustees are able to act promptly in accordance with the parish meetings directions. The Clerk noted it had taken many years to get to this point of being clear on what the Monitoring Officer's involvement should be with LLPM and to have a meeting with them.

DDDC Car Park Lease: The DDDC lease has been checked by LLPM's Solicitor, Clerk and Chair, and is ready

for signing by the Monitoring Officer and Chair of LLPM. Prior to the signing, DDDC's Solicitor stated that DDC will need to publish notices, as required under Section 123 (A) of the local Government Act 1972, as the car park used to be classed as open space. The current lease is still legal, whilst waiting for this.

Power take off point: The Clerk had requested an up to date quote from DDDC, as the amount approved by LLPM dated from a few years ago. The road will need to be closed to carry out the work, which will also affect the car park. The Clerk is to persist in getting this matter sorted as a matter of priority, as work is required to be carried out in the winter. LLPM hopes to incorporate this into the new lease autumn 2026.

Litter/bins/benches: DDDC continued to stain further benches.

Ice cream van 'No parking' signage: The Clerk has chased but still no action. The license expires end December 2026 – LLPM will consult the Monitoring Officer on the tender documents etc for this.

Monsale Dale/Viaduct

The Dale is looking in a poor state, with a tree down on the weir path. Areas of concern raised were trees growing out of the footbridge; both paths being trip hazards (reported in previous meetings); erosion taking place since the tree felling for ash die back; also the tree area opposite the view point leased by Peak Park. Mr K Adamson will make a list of the issues and pass to the Clerk to write to both Lord Burlington at Chatsworth and Peak Park, as the matters are not progressing.

Other matters

Generic email: The Clerk has consulted GLPC and DALC on this, and plans to use 'Parishes online', which is free, to be actioned before the next meeting.

Village week 2026: 11th-19th July, to tie in with School dates/carnival/ GLPC etc. Well dressing to start on 11th July; the Clerk trying to contact local band (Stella etc) for Sunday 12th July, 6-7.30pm; looking at using metal signs that slides onto to a traffic cone – the Clerk to liaise with local print company, and also purchase additional bunting as agreed previously.

Parking/speeding/streetlights: Entrance markers and white lines chased with Cllr Sutton.

Footpaths: Noted that the marker arrows have been fixed to the gates

leading to Dale Farm from Longstone Byre direction, but walkers still walking beyond, towards Monsal direction.

Trough area: The Chair will assist Mr S Robertson following the purchase of the barrel planters, and will look at the state of the benches' staining in spring. The old trough pump has broken (dirt and sediment were noted). A new pump is to be purchased and installed. Members to ensure water is topped up, as this is why the pump keeps breaking. No drinking sign is on the pump. The defib light is not working – the Clerk to arrange an electrician to sort this as it is a Health and Safety issue.

Biodiversity project: Seeds were planted in The Pinfold. No success on this yet – more work may be required on this area, and watering of the area once planted. The team have planted daffodils and bluebells. The Clerk to reimburse cost of seeds with receipts. A watering rota is needed.

Village Maintenance: The Clerk and Chair went through the 2025 list. Consideration was given for removing the verge from the Great Longstone end to the five-bar gate beyond the allotments, and the verge at the Monsal end. When LLPM left these. DDDC cut them in June, and planned to cut again in September. It was agreed to stay with this year's plan with these changes, which will reduce the cost. The Clerk will get a quote for the next meeting. DDDC do not cut near the stone walls – the biodiversity group may want to consider planting at the rear.

Neighbourhood Plan: Village meeting held on 7th October, planning as above. Areas covered are housing; creating community; business and tourism; Transport; environmental land management and nature recovery; climate mitigation (energy and renewables). Housing Needs Survey for Longstone area runs from 11th November-11th December. A leaflet went through doors and in UTE, for all to fill out, though some sections may not be relevant to all. The general survey/questionnaire will come out before the end of the year. Members were encouraged to complete it and highlight any issues such as poor broadband.

Next Meeting: In February at 7pm.

Contact Details: Sarah Stokes, Clerk to Little Longstone Parish Meeting, Longstone Byre, Little Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1NN. Tel: **01629 640851**. Email: sarah.l.longstone@gmail.com

Longstone Area Neighbourhood Plan (LANP) Update

The housing survey run by DDDC closed recently. We expect the results back late January, and should be in a position to share the results with you during a village meeting in February, which we are proposing for the evening of Wednesday 11th February, time and location to be advised.

We have, after much debate, compiled a general survey covering the workstreams in the Neighbourhood Plan. It is really important to us that as many of you as possible complete this survey, as it will be vital in determining the next steps we take on each of the workstreams – we can't represent your views if we don't have them! The flyer below has the details of the survey with a QR Code. The survey will close on 15th January, in time for our February meeting. We will make links available on other media.

We invited Marches Energy Agency to the November Book Swap Café. Whilst there was a limited turnout, six householders were able to obtain some great detailed advice on solar panels, heat pumps and insulation. Some also booked home energy surveys as a follow up. Our intention is to run an Home Energy Evening in January at the Village Hall with local speakers discussing their improvements and presentation about renewables, heat loss and improvements in homes and local energy networks. Details will be

circulated when we have finalised the speakers.

The Land Management and Nature recovery workstream have held a very productive meeting with the farmers in the area, and are excited about developing proposals to share with you all at a later date.

You will also probably read about the lease of the Old School House elsewhere in UTE. We hope to have a proposal in place to bring this back into community use – watch this space!

We also recognise that we need to have better connection with some of the younger families in the Longstone Area, as the 7pm meetings don't work so well when you are working and have children to put to bed. There have been some great suggestions around using end of school time or WhatsApp Groups to try and engage with parents, which we will work on.

It might be the run up to Christmas, but there is a real chance to help guide your village in the right direction for you, so please take 15 minutes over this busy holiday to complete the survey.

Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year from your LANP Steering Committee.

Cllr Andy Douglass, GLPC

Longstone Area Neighbourhood Plan

Please help us to help you and fill in this survey.

Following on from the village meeting in October we are seeking your input into the further development of the neighbourhood plan for Great and Little Longstone.

As a reminder, a neighbourhood plan is a community-driven process where residents work together to develop policies and set out proposals for how their local area will change and grow in the future. This survey is part of the consultation process, giving you, the residents of our fabulous villages the chance to get involved and tell us what you feel and think about living here.

We estimate that the survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

Remember it's your village, your choice, your voice.

The QR Code below will take you straight to the survey, We will also make a link available on the Parish Council Web Site and on the Great Longstone Community Facebook page.

Paper copies will be made available, please ask at the village shop.





Our next meeting will be at 12.30pm for our traditional New Year's meal at the Crispin on Wednesday 6th January.

Please contact me on **07876 481946** for more information and to let me know if you want to come – all welcome!

Zoe McGregor

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Another successful LEAP event!



On a wet Saturday afternoon in November, preparations for Christmas were well underway at the Village Hall. Approximately 40 locals, children and adults, spent an entertaining afternoon decorating china with Christmas patterns.

The event was led by Steph Brereton, ably assisted by her mother Zoe McGregor. Steph provided blanks in the form of plates, bowls, Christmas baubles, and boxes, which we could then decorate with our own designs.

Steph then took our finished articles away for firing and returned them the following week. I expect there will be several mothers receiving a unique hand-painted bauble or box this Christmas!

Melanie Rae-Smith



LEAP Christmas Craft Afternoon



We had a wonderfully festive time at the LEAP Christmas Craft Afternoon on 14th December. Josie and her mum, Margaret, guided everyone through making fantastic fir-cone decorations – much better than anything you could buy in a shop.

Pamela, with Su's help, created beautiful candle-lit table centrepieces, while Julia ran the wonderfully messy bauble-marbling corner, producing some amazing patterns. In the meantime, Jane showed visitors how to make embossed metal-foil decorations, which looked stunning.

Roger Topham, Simon Headington and Dave Griffin put the expertise they gained at Annie Davey's recent Men's Cookery Group session to keep everyone fuelled with mulled wine and their homemade mince pies.

It was lovely to welcome so many local families, and the children and young people threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm.

As this was LEAP's final event of the year, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers and helpers. We



simply couldn't run these events without the time, energy and goodwill they give so generously.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas – here's to a New Year filled with exciting events and activities.

Jane Littlefield and Julia Morgans

Bakewell Library Recommends...



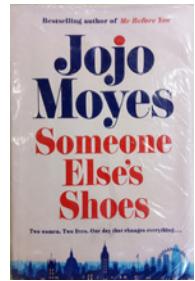
Quicksilver by Callie Hart. In the land of the unforgiving desert, there isn't much a girl wouldn't do for a glass of water. 24-year-old Saeris Fane is good at keeping secrets. No one knows about the strange powers she possesses, or the fact that she has been picking pockets and stealing from the Undying Queen's reservoirs for as long as she can remember. But a secret is like a knot. Sooner or later, it is bound to come undone. When Saeris comes face-to-face with Death himself, she inadvertently reopens a gateway between realms and is transported to a land of ice and snow. The Fae have always been the stuff of myth, of legend, of nightmares – but it turns out they're real, and Saeris has landed herself right in the middle of a centuries-long conflict that might just get her killed.

This book was an absolute thrill to read, featuring exceptional world-building and a plot that continually improves as the story unfolds. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves a great fantasy novel. **Rating 5/5**



A Spell of Winter by Helen Dunmore. Catherine and her brother Rob don't know why they have been abandoned by their parents. In the house of their grandfather, 'the man from nowhere', they make a passionate refuge for themselves against the terror of family secrets.

I found this book to be both unusual and slightly chilling. Dunmore's fluid writing style, combined with her captivating descriptions of the English countryside and intriguingly flawed characters, adds to the novel's distinctive atmosphere. Despite its unsettling tone, I thoroughly enjoyed the read and would highly recommend it. **Rating 4/5**



Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes. Who are you when you are forced to walk in someone else's shoes? Nisha Cantor and Sam Kemp are two very different women. Nisha, 45, lives the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy, until her husband inexplicably cuts her off entirely. She doesn't even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in. That's because Sam – 47, middle-aged, struggling to keep herself and her family afloat – has accidentally taken Nisha's gym bag. Now Nisha's got nothing, and Sam's walking tall with shoes that catch eyes – and give her a career an unexpected boost. Except, Nisha wants her life back – and she'll start with her shoes.

A fabulous book – full of fun. I loved the friendship between the main characters and how they didn't give up on each other as they came together to seek revenge, deliver justice and right a wrong. The writing style was easy and enjoyable. A complete page turner. **Rating 4/5**

Aimee Mills

Bakewell Library Events

Monday	10-11.30am	Time to Play * (<i>Under 5's</i>)
Tuesday	10.30-11am	Children's Storytime
Wednesday	1-3pm	Board Games Club *
Thursday	10-11.30am	Time to Play * (<i>Under 5's</i>)
Friday	10.30am-12	'Join us for a Cuppa' * (drinks 20p)
1st Saturday of the month	12-1pm	Lego Club

* Term Time only

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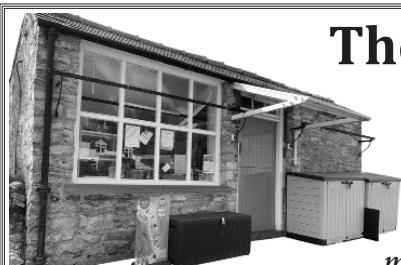


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Wardlow Carol and Toy Service – Advent Sunday for Joy



In this photo, Margaret Davidson is helping Harry and Demelza (both three years old) put Jesus in the crib as we sang 'Away in the manger' at the Toy and Carol service in the beautifully decorated Church of the Good Shepherd at Wardlow.

David Beale led a lovely service of story, song and prayer, in which the children led the bringing of gifts for vulnerable children in Chesterfield. This was the third Sunday in Advent, when we celebrate the joy of the coming of the child Jesus.

Whatever your faith or even if you have none, there was something very poignant about watching the little ones enthralled in the story and characters, while we sang out our prayers for all the children of the world at this time. You may remember this one from your childhood, *'Be near me Lord Jesus. I ask thee to stay. Close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.'*

Alison Waltho

Treading Softly – Getting to Know One Another



We looked at them, and some looked at us, and we all fell still, struck by their number, proximity and contentment together – only a thin wire between us.

You are very welcome to join our 'walk on the mild side', which leaves from St Giles' Lychgate on Church Lane, Great Longstone at 10 am every Wednesday from 7th January 7th. It's a gentle walk and we try to and care for each other's pace. Wear stout boots and warm wet-weather gear, and bring a drink and walking poles – we walk in all weathers!

We enjoy listening to the sounds of the seasons and watching the wildlife. We always have a laugh and sometimes share an impromptu reflection, poem or prayer. Afterwards, we have cake with coffee or tea in church, around 11.30am – join us in church then if you don't feel like walking.

Everyone is very welcome, as well as friendly well-behaved dogs on short leads. Please see online Health Walks in Derbyshire Dales for all walks in the local area.

Alison Waltho

Way Hay and Up She Rises!



Little did Tom and Dan Cox think, when they buried their new septic tank for the new campsite on Beggarway Lane, that it would rise up to greet them like a huge submarine a few months later! The sheer amount of rain after the summer's drought had raised the water table to just below the surface, forcing the tank to float up on top. There was nothing for it but to lift the tank right out and rest it on a bale of straw,

before pumping out all the water and re-digging the hole. The tank is now firmly surrounded by concrete to keep it well bedded down.

In New Orleans, where the water table is similarly high, bodies have been buried in tombs above ground since 1803, to prevent bodies floating away and spreading disease, not to mention causing untold distress to mourning relatives.

January Farming Notes



Since the last time of writing we have sold most of the lambs that were born in May.

The decision to do lambing a month later, moving lambing from April to May, meant that I anticipated holding onto the lambs until later in the year. In the past, we sold most of the lambs in September and October, but this year the first sale we did was in late November. The lambs have just been on a grass-fed diet since they were weaned from their mothers. We had some issues with lambs being lame in October, but some essential foot-bathing cleared up this problem really well, and I was pleased with how the lambs were looking both size- and condition-wise. During November, the grass growth really slows down, and eventually over the winter



it hardly grows at all. Over winter, all livestock is given hay or haylage, and this is something I have been introducing in the last few weeks. It felt like the right time to sell the lambs as winter sets in, and we got a fair price at the sales, so I was satisfied. The lamb prices are a lot better than we got last year, when I felt rather disappointed with the outcome. But this year was better, which gives me encouragement to keep going for another year!

Attention now turns to the ewes and starting the next breeding season. Hopefully, the rams will do their job and we should have lambs in May again in 2026. What will be will be...

Joanna Shimwell



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Dear All,

I had the honour and privilege of travelling to Zimbabwe in November 2025, as a member of a supporters' trip organised by Tearfund (all supporters pay their own way, by the way). Travelling overseas as a visitor from the UK, it's easy to imagine arriving with the intention of making a difference, of being a beacon of hope in communities facing hardship. Yet, reflecting on our journey with Tearfund and its work through local churches, a deeper truth emerges: not only did we witness hope being restored in others, but God, in his wisdom, planted seeds of transformation within us as well.

Tearfund's ethos is rooted in empowering local churches to become the heart of change in their communities. This model is not about outsiders imposing solutions, but about equipping local believers, through the local church, to address needs with dignity, creativity, and faith. As visitors from the UK, we were privileged to witness first-hand how these partnerships flourish. The church, often seen as just a place of worship in our context in the UK, becomes a centre for holistic transformation, feeding the hungry, educating children, empowering women, and restoring livelihoods, deeply rooted in biblical principles and studies.

One striking moment was visiting a rural village where a small church had established a community garden. We saw how a simple patch of land, cultivated with care, provided food for families and skills-training for the unemployed. The pride in the faces of the congregation spoke volumes – this was their work, their hope, their answer to prayer. And Tearfund's role was to walk alongside, offering support, training, and encouragement, never overshadowing local ownership.

Witnessing the faith of our hosts challenged and inspired us. Their prayers, sung with conviction, weren't merely words but lifelines. Despite circumstances that might seem bleak from the outside, the people we met radiated a resilient hope. They shared stories of how God had provided them with the inspiration to help themselves: a new well when the old one ran dry, a microloan that launched a small business, a church-run school that welcomed every child regardless of background. But these were all things that they had done with their own resources and which they owned,

with Tearfund just providing training and encouragement, through biblical based principles. One lady we met, said that their community thought that they had no resources, until they realised through Tearfund bible studies that the members of their community were their own God-given resources.

As visitors, we were more than observers; we were drawn into their stories and their faith. We prayed together, shared meals, laughed, and even wept. We saw the Gospel lived out not just in word, but in deed – a witness that left a lasting imprint on our hearts.

In one community, we met a mother whose small tailoring business began with a microloan group, set up with Tearfund's help, but with all the money coming from small amounts saved by members of the group, not from Tearfund. She invited us into her home, proudly showing the dresses she had made and sharing how her newfound independence allowed her to provide for her children's education. The gratitude and hope in her eyes resonated deeply, reminding us of the impact a seemingly simple act of support can have.

We joined a youth group at a local church, where young people passionately led a workshop on environmental stewardship. Their energy and knowledge were infectious, and as we participated by planting seedlings beside them, we realised that these young leaders were not only changing their community, but also inspiring us to be more mindful in our own lives back home.

During a number of services held in our honour, we were invited to sing with the choir. Although our voices stumbled over unfamiliar melodies and words, the warmth of their welcome made us feel truly part of the gathering. That shared worship was an unforgettable reminder that faith bridges cultures and languages, drawing people together in compassion and joy. And there was dancing – a lot of dancing!

As we returned home, we realised that God had been at work in us all along. The seeds of compassion, humility, and hope that were planted during our time with Tearfund and its partners have begun to sprout. We find ourselves more attentive to needs in our own communities, more prayerful and intentional about justice and mercy, and more hopeful that change is possible.

There is a temptation to view such trips as a one-way exchange, with visitors delivering help and local people receiving it. But in truth, God uses these encounters to transform both giver and receiver. The stories, hospitality, and faith of our brothers and sisters have become seeds planted in our hearts – seeds of hope that compel us to act, to pray, and to advocate for a fairer, more compassionate world.

The journey doesn't end when the plane touches down in the UK. The impact of Tearfund's work through local churches ripples outward, carried by those of us who have glimpsed what God can do through ordinary people. We return with stories to tell, inspiring our churches, schools, and families to see themselves as part of God's global mission.

Through Tearfund's model, we learn that church is not confined to four walls. It is a movement of love and justice, rooted in prayer and expressed in action. As visitors, we have become bearers of the seeds God has planted, called to nurture them wherever we are, so that hope might take root and flourish across the world.

For some of us, that means praying. For some, giving. For others, advocating or sharing the stories we've heard. For all of us, it means letting God grow compassion in us – a compassion that doesn't crumble when the world shakes. Tearfund shows us what's possible when communities believe God has already given them what they need, and how to use them. And we, in the UK, have a wonderful role to play – giving, praying, encouraging, and learning alongside our global church family, and remembering that hope, faith, and transformation are just waiting to be unleashed, right where we are.

As Jesus said in *Luke 21.19*, 'Stand firm, and you will gain life.'

**John Davidson, Tearfund trustee
All Saints Church, Bakewell**

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond
07935 873930
cubanheel26@btinternet.com

**Please monitor the Lychgate
Notice Board on Church Lane
for all the latest church news**

St. Giles Great Longstone & Church of the Good Shepherd, Wardlow Services in January

St Giles Evensong at 4pm in winter months

+L-Longstone, A-Ashford,
R-Rowley, W-Wardlow

4th January – Epiphany

9am Eucharist (Wardlow)
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)
4pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

11th January – Baptism of Christ

9.30am Plough Sunday Service
(Ashford) (+L)

18th January – Epiphany 2

10.30am Parish Eucharist (St Giles)
6pm Benefice Evensong
(Bakewell)

25th January – Epiphany 3

9am Morning Service (Wardlow)
10.30am Morning Worship (St Giles)



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Pork and Apple Casserole

It's not just acorns and hawthorns that have had a 'mast' year in 2025. Apple trees were groaning under an enormous crop this year, and it's proved impossible to give them away, as everyone has had such a glut. Mast in this sense has nothing to do with ships, but refers to the fruit of forest trees such as beech and oak used as food for pigs. The last mast year was 2020, with a smaller event in 2022. This delicious recipe is a savoury alternative to otherwise endless apple crumbles and tarts tatin! It also freezes well.

Serves 4

2 medium onions
Stick of celery
2 cloves garlic
1 tsp olive oil
500g pork
2 large cooking apples
Vegetable stock
(1 cube in 0.5l water)
1 dsp dried sage



Chop the onions finely and cut the celery stick into 1cm slices. Add the crushed garlic cloves and oil to a large casserole dish along with the celery, onion, and fry for ten minutes or so over a medium heat until soft. Dice the pork into 2cm cubes, add to the casserole, and fry until browned.

Peel, core, and chop the apples into smallish cubes and add to the casserole, along with the vegetable stock and sage. Season with salt and pepper, bring to the boil and then simmer gently for approximately 45 minutes in a moderate oven and with a lid on the casserole. Halfway through, stir and add a little more water if necessary.

Check seasoning before serving with mashed potato and carrots.

Melanie Rae-Smith

January in the Garden

Lawns: Continue aeration treatment. Repair turf if weather is favourable. Prepare top dressing for spring use.

Roses: Continue planting in favourable conditions. Firm in bushes loosened by wind. Prepare ground for new planting in February and March.

Herbaceous plants: Cut dead tops off non-shrubby plants from borders. Fork over surface of soil between plants. Apply organic mulch.

Dahlias: Examine stored tubers. Cut away rotted portions of tubers and dust with flowers of sulphur.

Chrysanthemums: Under glass, take cuttings of large exhibition varieties. Control aphids.

Sweet peas: Dress beds prepared for planting with hydrated lime. Under glass, sow seeds in gentle heat.

Trees and shrubs: Winter prune wisterias. Cut back young shoots within three inches of old wood. Thin out dead and diseased branches from established trees and shrubs.

Fruit: Inspect stored fruit, discarding any rotted and diseased fruit. Continue pruning. Burn prunings. Check stakes and ties. Continue spraying with winter wash. Take gooseberry and blackcurrant cuttings.

Vegetables: Plant rhubarb and spread strawy manure over each plant. Cover established crowns similarly. Cover plants with boxes to encourage early growth.

General tasks: Order seeds, onion sets, gladioli, garden sundries, weedkillers and fertilisers. Send mowers, shears and cultivators for sharpening and servicing.

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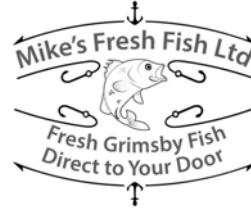
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What's On

Mondays & Thursdays - Under 5s Time to Play, Bakewell Library 10am (page 18)
Tuesdays - Children's Storytime, Bakewell Library 10.30am (page 18)
Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesdays - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 19)
Wednesdays - Board Games Club, Bakewell Library 1pm (page 18)
Thursdays - LEAP Yoga Classes, GL Village Hall 10am
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3pm
Fridays - 'Join us for a Cuppa', Bakewell Library 10.30am (page 18) 20p
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
3rd January - Lego Club, Bakewell Library 12-1pm (page 18)
3rd January - Bell ringing demo, Ashford Church 2-4pm (page 2)
6th January - WI New Year's Meal, The Crispin 12.30pm (page 16)
14th January - GL Parish Council Meeting, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 13)
22nd January - Arts Talk *Leaps of Imagination*, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 9) £5
18th February - Arts Talk *Sculpture in the Making*, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 9) £5
22nd February - Live and Local *Helios*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 9) £13.50

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Bakewell Medical Centre

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We do not close for lunch

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A&E (Minor Injuries Unit): 8am - 8pm
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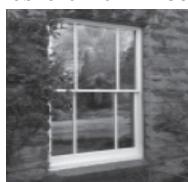
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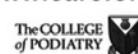
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Who Knew He Had it in Him?



Allen Morris painted this amazing snow scene on the inside of one of Holly Lodge's windows on Station Road – and on the other window he featured a snowman and a Christmas tree. Allen apparently didn't display much interest in or talent for art at school!

A Note From The Editor

Thank you to everyone who submits material for publication and especially our regular contributors. Enquiries and submissions should be sent to:

editor@undertheedge.net

Please include your name and contact details. Copy deadline for small notices or changes in the next issue is **10am** on:

Wednesday 21st January

Please submit larger items, or give notice of the space you need, by the previous Sunday if at all possible. Photos should preferably be at least 1MB (1500x1500 pixels) and in colour. Printed photos should be scanned at 300 or 600 dpi. We can scan material if you do not have access to a scanner.

The editors and management committee do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles and adverts.

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