
UNDER THE EDGE

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

www.undertheedge.net

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Scandi Irruption!



This beautiful photo of a waxwing enjoying the hawthorn berries near Hassop Station was taken by Kay Fairest from Bakewell

Hundreds of birdwatchers have been descending on the Monsal Trail, a couple of hundred yards west of Hassop Station, to admire the waxwings that arrived from Scandinavia and Russia in the middle of December. One coachload of 48 had come all the way from Formby, the other side of Liverpool, having never seen them before. The small plump birds are slightly smaller than a starling, and get their name from the small red tips, like sealing wax, on some of their wing feathers. They show little fear of people, ignoring the crowds and the long-lensed cameras pointing at them.

Waxwings are usually rare, but regular, winter visitors from their continental breeding grounds. This year has seen an 'irruption', which is when much larger numbers arrive as a result of there not being enough food to support their population at home. So far, over 350 waxwings have been counted in the trees by the station, a number not seen since

the Derbyshire record of 400 was set in December 1970, over fifty years ago. Waxwings' favourite food is rowan berries, but they also love hawthorn berries, which have been particularly abundant this year, so they've certainly landed on their feet coming here! They will stay, apparently, until they have stripped all the trees, so will be around for at least a couple more weeks, judging by the number of haws left.

Birdwatchers (or birders to our friends across the pond) are often referred to as twitchers, but there is a subtle distinction. A twitcher is someone who will travel long distances to add as many birds to their list as possible, particularly rare or unusual ones, and in Australia, they even have annual competitive 'twitchathons'. The term arose in the 1950s from the nervous behaviour of British birdwatcher, Howard Medhurst, who would get off his friend's motorbike at their destination and shiveringly light up a cigarette.

Photos from the Monsal Trail



A winter wonderland at the Station from Andy Hanna in early December; birdwatchers with long lenses pointed at the waxwings

Bakewell and Ashford Film Society



BASH's next film is *Licorice Pizza* at the Medway Centre at 7.30pm on Sunday 11th February. *San Fernando Valley, 1973*.

Disarmed by his fearless confidence and surprising maturity, bored 25-year-old photographer's assistant Alana Kane reluctantly agrees to go out for a drink with sunny 15-year-old child actor Gary Valentine, her unexpected admirer. As one thing leads to another, the platonic soulmates embark on ambitious business ventures, trying to find their feet and purpose in a crazy world. But can Gary and Alana remain friends against the backdrop of life's ups and downs?

The Medway Centre is wheelchair friendly and we provide film subtitles and a hearing loop. You can join BASH Film Society via our website bashfilms.org.uk, sign up on the night or you can telephone the membership secretary Joy Thrower on **01629 814863**. **Joy Thrower**



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What a Wonderful World...



Thanks to Richard Gosney for these beautiful photos of Chertpit Lane, St Giles and the footpath off Church Lane

The Wrath of Pia



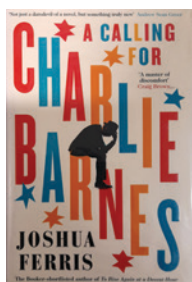
The saturated ground and strong winds of Storm Pia felled this magnificent 250-year-old 70' beech tree near the footpath from Station Road to Little Longstone, and Matthew Harrison's pigs off the Monsal Trail got a nasty shock when this tree split in two.

Bakewell Library Recommends...



Secrets of the Lavender Girls by Kate Thompson. Stratford, 1943. World War Two is still raging across Europe. But for the Lavender Girls, there are even more challenges on the home front. Esther, newly married, is learning to juggle life as a working woman with her duties as a wife and homemaker. Headstrong Patsy, a recruit at the Yardley factory, has a double life in the East End lipstick belt by day and the West End stage at night. For bubbly Lou, a forbidden love forces her to choose between family loyalty and a chance at true happiness.

I greatly enjoyed this book. The characters are believable, loveable and complete with flaws that bring a great depth to the book. The authors research on the era is unparalleled which makes it a much more satisfying read. A brilliant book by an outstanding author. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. **Rating 5/5**



A Calling for Charlie Barnes by Joshua Ferris. Charlie Barnes is a mid-century man devoted to his newspaper and his landline. But Charlie is about to get dragged into our troubled age by his storyteller son, who has a different idea of him than he has of himself. Then there are his other children, his ex-wives, present wife, business clients, friends, and acquaintances, all of whom have their competing opinions of Charlie. He certainly seems simple enough: he's a striver, a romantic, and a

thoroughgoing capitalist. But suddenly blindsided by the Great Recession and a dose of bad news, he might have to rethink his life from top to bottom, on short notice. What makes a man real? What makes him good? And how does the story we tell about ourselves line up with the lives that we actually live?

This novel is funny and full of wicked laugh-out-loud moments, whilst delving into some of the deeper tragic truths of the world. It's a novel which is authentic, absurd, and insightful. It was unputdownable and I would highly recommend this novel to anyone. **Rating 3/5**



The Other Guest by Helen Cooper. One year ago, Leah's feisty 21-year-old niece, Amy, mysteriously drowned near the family-owned luxury resort on the shores of Lake Garda. Leah is returning to Italy for the first time since Amy's death, where she is shocked to find her sister, brother-in-law and surviving niece Olivia seem to have erased all memories of Amy, and insist her death was an accidental drowning. Meanwhile, in Derby, university counsellor Joanna is recovering from a break-up when she is swept off her feet by a handsome bartender. But she quickly realises she doesn't know him as well as she thought.

This is a multi-layered family drama with an intriguing setting. It can be a slow burner at times but is still a page turning read. I did at times struggle to connect with any of the characters, but the storyline narration is superb. **Rating 4/5**

Aimee Mills

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Longstone District Show - Get Sowing!

It may only be February, but it's not too early to start planning for this year's Horticultural and Garden Society Show on 17th August. The complete schedule is shown below, and includes a Lemon Drizzle Cake class. These must be made to the following recipe (175g = 6oz):

175g margarine
175g castor sugar
1 lemon
2 eggs
175g self raising flour
60ml (4 tbs) milk

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan or gas mark 4). Beat together the margarine, sugar and the grated rind of the lemon until pale and creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing through. Stir in sifted flour and milk. Turn into a 1kg (2lb) loaf tin lined with greaseproof paper. Bake for about one hour until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Prick the top of the warm cake with a skewer or fork and pour over the juice of the lemon.

Longstone Area Sports Association



The man from Del Monte, he says Yes!

We're not talking an inspector of oranges here, but the very good people of the area turning up on a very cold night at Great Longstone Village Hall. Near to fifty of us gathered to discuss the possibility of forming a sports association in the form of a facilities management team.

The idea is to preserve the pavilion and tea hut for the use of the community, and to support and enable activities both formal and informal. The excellent turnout held a great conversation around the possibilities, and a good number of people put their names forward to be involved in some capacity. The next steps are to pull together a meeting of those that wished to be involved, hopefully form a committee and start making plans of how it will work.

Thanks to everyone that attended and to those that sent their apologies. It was a really good meeting.

Mike Meurer

Margaret Crichton

Sadly, my mother Margaret Crichton, died during December. She lived in Great Longstone for over 30 years, but moved to Aberdeen in 1918 to be near myself and family.

Sally Connell

Longstone & District Horticultural & Garden Society Show

Saturday 17th August, 2024, Great Longstone Village Hall

Open for exhibitors 9.30-11am and members of the public from 3pm

Entries are FREE, One entry per person per class only

Qty	SECTION 1	VEG & FRUIT	Class	Qty	SECTION 4	DOMESTIC
3	Potatoes	Any variety	26	1	Loaf of Bread	Wholemeal or white
6	Peas	Any variety	27	3	Savoury Scones	On a plate
6	Broad Beans	Any variety	28	6	Pieces of Shortbread	On a plate
6	Runner Beans	Any variety	29	1	*Lemon Drizzle Cake	On a plate
3	Beetroot	Any variety	30	4	Chocolate Brownies	On a plate
2	Cucumbers	Any variety	31	1	Carrot Cake	On a plate
3	Courgettes	Any variety	32	1	Jam of any fruit	Jar
5	Tomatoes	Any variety on a plate	33	1	Marmalade	Jar
3	Onions	Any variety	34	1	Chutney	Jar
4	Carrots	Any variety	35	4	Eggs	On a plate
1	Tray of Vegetables	1 each of 3 different vegetables			SECTION 5	HANDICRAFT
1	Plate of 1 type of fruit	Own choice	36	1	Hand knitting	Any article
1	Collection of culinary herbs	4 different types: flowering/non-flowering	37	1	Crochet	Any article
			38	1	Cross Stitch	Any article
	SECTION 2	FLORAL ART	39	1	Patchwork and/or Quilting	Any Article
1	Arrangement in an unusual container	Fresh foliage and garden flowers	40	1	Canvas work	Any article
			41	1	Embroidery (not in above classes)	Any article
1	Arrangement in a Boot	Fresh foliage and garden flowers	42	1	Soft Toy	Any article
1	Green Arrangement	Greenery only	43	1	Picture	Art - any medium
1	"Floral Jam"	Display of flowers in 3 jars of any size	44	1	Photograph	Featuring "gates"
			45	1	Woodwork	Any subject
1	Arrangement	Display of roses and foliage - bought flowers may be used	46		SECTION 6	OUTDOOR CLASS
				1	Sunflowers	Grown in a pot
	SECTION 3	FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE			SECTION 7	CHILDREN
6	Marigolds	Blooms	47	1	Decorated Eye Mask	
1	Sweet Peas	Vase of mixed colours	48	1	Drawing/painting on an Olympic Theme	
3	Gladioli	Any variety				
3	Roses	Any variety	49	1	Lego Olympian	
1	Cut flowers	In a Vase	50	2	Decorated Cup Cakes	Can be bought cakes
1	Flowering plant	Max 10 inch pot				
1	Foliage plant	Max 10 inch pot				

* Recipe given in UTE

In a bit of a Pingle?

A word for all things to all men. Locally, from the 16th century, it means a small paddock (perhaps behind the name of Pingle Academy in Swadlincote?). Elsewhere, it can mean to pick at one's food, to have a fierce struggle with someone, to interfere in a feeble, ineffective or unhelpful way, or to work laboriously doing a difficult task in difficult circumstances. Thanks to Simon Daniell for this!

Little Longstone Chapel – A Haven from the Foggy Dew



Mandy Bancroft captured this beautiful picture on a Boxing Day walk when the night was drawing in – the Chapel looked so warm!

The Bosses of St Giles



One of St Giles' finest features is its 15th century ceiling, with its many ceiling bosses of carved oak figures, symbols and coats of arms. These are often missed by visitors due to their height; also the natural light casts shadow across many of the bosses.

The church is regularly visited by walkers, cyclists and holidaymakers, as well as previous residents of the village or their relations. Many come to visit family graves or research family history, as well as taking the opportunity to view the interior of the church. Many also have relations who were married here, and the school has a twice-a-term service in the church.

The PCC is keen to engage more visitors in the architectural significance of the church, and also encourage an understanding of our faith. For this reason, it chose to focus on the roof bosses with their mixture of figures. After a suggestion by a parishioner to depict the bosses in stained glass for a display on a wall, Jane Littlefield, a local stained glass artist, was asked to outline and draft a proposal. The draft was displayed in church for comment by the congregation, who gave it their overwhelming approval, as did the PCC. Many residents of the village have now viewed the proposals and also given their overwhelming support.

Whilst there are many different designs of the bosses, it was decided to take a mixture that represented both familiar and symbolic meanings. Some showed people doing jobs such as the miner and the milkmaid, others showed saints, angels and demons and figures from folklore, whilst others are believed to be representations of local lords or merchants. Although they are plain wood, the bosses would have originally been coloured.

The piece was made using traditional medieval techniques that would have been in use when the roof bosses were made. Jane cut the coloured glass and applied black glass paint, silver stain and coloured enamels that were then fired in a kiln. This often involved many layers, with each piece of glass being fired three or four times. The panel was then constructed from Lead Came, which was soldered to hold it

together. Finally, the piece was made into a light box with a steel frame created by local metal worker Mark Garratt, and constructed with help from Alan Grant. The cost of all this has been met by a parishioner.

The siting of the new artefact is on the north wall of unplastered stone, immediately opposite the main southern porch entrance. This was considered the best position, given the plain stone wall, between two existing windows without detracting from them. It also gives a focus to visitors entering the church.

In summary, the PCC has sought to complement the existing architecture and the proportion of the church with a high-quality artefact made with traditional materials, engaging our many visitors whilst also directing them to one of the finest aspects of the building. This is the first step in making the roof bosses more accessible, with additional information about them in a leaflet.

Please do come and view this very fine piece of stained glass at any time. The church is open generally between 9am and 4.30pm.

Frank Hammond and Jane Littlefield



Parish Council Notes

The following are extracts from the official minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 15th November, which are published on the Parish Council noticeboard outside Longstone School as well as the village website greatlongstone.net.

Attendance

Cllrs Wendy Long (Chair), Simon Headington (Vice-Chair), Cllr Caroline Briggs, Cllr Jane Rigby, Cllr Phil Barrett, an Ashford resident and Sarah Stokes (Parish Clerk). Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cox, County Cllr Sutton and District Cllr Boothroyd.

Public comments

An Ashford resident came to raise concerns over the pressure group that is looking to reinstate the railway on the Monsal Trail. He felt that Village Hall meetings run by the group were not a fair way to judge feelings, and asked the PC to organise a meeting and to contact the Dept of Transport. It was noted no alternative footpaths have been looked at to work alongside the trail.

Recreation ground

Playground: Joinery work is near completion. Cllr Headington had inspected the Rec and reported all looking good. New playground equipment is to be looked at 2024/25 onwards, taking one piece at a time. Safety surfacing will also need replacing. The memorial bench is now 26 years old and in good order (relatives want to be consulted when a replacement is needed). Clerk is to draw up painting list in Dec/Jan.

Cricket and Football: Tree work, raking and seeding have been done – it had been very wet since. A letter had been received from the Football Club about creating a second pitch. It was agreed not to make a decision on this while there is a possibility of a new village sports association being formed.

Cricket Club buildings: A very positive public meeting was held in the Village Hall in October. Residents may launch a new village sports association that ideally will take on responsibility for these buildings. As owners of the Rec, GLPC should have representation on any new organisation involving use of these facilities.

PC-owned land inspection on 17th September: This included village greens and the Rec. It was agreed to go ahead with the rotten rowan tree work near the court. The Clerk is to contact the tenant regarding builders' yard and adjacent area over issues raised on the

inspection, and ask the joiner to put a new strip on top of the noticeboard next to the bus shelter.

Land registration: It was decided to check and change the address on all land registration documents when there is a change of Clerk.

Village Greens/Village Hall

Allotments: Cllr Barrett is awaiting information from DCC, and the resident working on the project, for the application for ordinary watercourse land drainage consent. This is intended to be completed by next summer. About £100 has been raised by donations to the surplus veg stall, which Cllr Barrett will pass to the Clerk to bank.

Christmas Carols: The band had cancelled, other bands had been looked at. It was decided to go ahead with the event and not to cancel. The Chair is awaiting a reply from her approach to a resident about leading the singing. The singer has family that are part of a singing group, who may also come along. The Chair is to put something in UTE about the changes to the event. The lead singer will stand up on the school side of the tree, not on the Main Rd side. Cllrs Long and Briggs and the Clerk to ask Cllr Cox to be a Marshal. Clerk and J Stokes will be backup Marshals alongside Cllr Headington. Hi-vis jackets were distributed at the meeting and to Churchwardens.

Village green lights: Cllrs Long, Barrett, Rigby, with W Rigby and Peter Thompson to put up on 2nd December. Clerk to obtain key from J Fawcett.

Xmas tree: Clerk to thank Margaret Davis for donation of village Christmas tree. J Fawcett, D Cox and JW Long organising the transport and erection of Xmas tree and lights. JW Long will not be able to cover the public liability insurance for carols due to retirement. Alternative cover will be looked at for next Xmas. J Fawcett has been asked to look at a tubular heater for electrical box on the war memorial green. Signage for the event to be put up with QR codes for carol sheet (QR codes to also go on the buckets). The Clerk will ensure PCC have printed copies of the carol sheet, and will ask Cllr Cox about PC cones. The Clerk will ensure PCC have buckets (ideally three) for donations to St Giles.

Village bunting: H Wright had sent details of the material used. The Clerk will check with LEAP on this, as plan was to purchase ready-made (cheaper).

Old Infant School building: Developments on the sale are ongoing.

Remembrance: Wreaths now ordered direct from British Legion (£20). Cones will be required in future for the event, due to cars being parked. The stone curb has been repaired and the tree work carried out by B Cardona.

Closed churchyard and cemetery

Biodiversity project: A big thank you to Sara Barrett for organising all the working party days. Members are now looking after different trees. A war memorial was uncovered and the ground ivy spared (Sara to clarify reasons as part of an UTE article).

Footpaths and roads

Defibs: A new pad has been ordered for the tea hut defibrillator at no charge.

Speeding/streetlights/grit bins: It was decided to go ahead with any extra measures for gritting or snow ploughing.

Electric charging points: DDDC are looking into grants for points at Monsal Head, working with LL Parish Meeting.

Drain issues: Work carried out by DCC on Village Hall drain on Church Lane to be monitored (there seems to be a blockage down the road from the VH that then backs up towards it). Drain clearance has been carried out on Moor Rd. The Clerk is to write a strong letter to DCC over the disappointment of the PC and community over the lack of communication about the road closure, even though it was an emergency. The diversion signs were less than helpful also. Work to the ramp at Skew Bridge onto the trail is to be done this winter.

Council Administration

Two vacancies for Parish Councillors:

An article has gone in UTE.

Financial regulations, standing orders, code of conduct and document retention policy:

No changes other than date of adoption. 'Association' will be changed to 'Parish Council' on the records retention policy. It was decided not to keep planning applications as they are now online. The Clerk is reducing the paperwork and filing before a new Clerk is appointed, and will ask Dalc for an up-to-date code of conduct template, to be looked at in the January meeting.

Recruitment of new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Three documents have been produced for the recruitment: 'Plan for the recruitment of the new Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer', a 'Person specification', and 'Job description' plus two adverts. The role is to be advertised in November/December in Peak Advertiser, UTE and Dalc. The closing date is 7th January with

interviews on 10th January (three Cllrs to interview). The aim is for a new Clerk starting week 22 January alongside the current Clerk. The small adverts are to be no more than £200. The Clerk will ask Dalc for a template contract.

Financial matters

Annual Governance and Accountability external audit:

Additional work was needed due to a change of asset figure. The Clerk thanked Cllr Headington for his help on this matter. The audit process is now complete for 2022/23.

Clerk's pay: In line with the local government services pay agreement for April 2023 to March 2024, it was agreed to increase the Clerk's pay to £12.63 (with back pay from 1st April).

Precept: Cllr Headington went through the budget overview and forecasts for 2024/25. It was agreed to raise the precept by 5% to £20,416.

Other matters: The mowing schedules for the next tenders will be looked at early in 2024, with a view to adjustments to reduce costs. All allotment rents now received.

Planning matters

Applications: NP/DDD/0923/1049 Thornbridge Hall, Baslow Rd. Retrospective consent for repairs and reinstatement of listed fountain, urns and basin, and perimeter hard landscaping. **No objections**

Decisions: NP/DDD/0723/0856 Mole End, The Close. Replacement garage roof. **Granted**

NP/DDD/0723/0875 and NP/DDD/0723/0876 (listed building) Shakerley House. Erection of timber framed conservatory replacing existing conservatory. **Granted**

PDNPA will no longer send any further planning decision notices to the PC.

Police report

PCSO had reported crimes of assault.

Dates of next meetings

Wednesdays 24th January, 13th March, 22nd May (Annual Meetings) and 8th November at 7pm.

Contact Details

Sarah Stokes, Clerk to Great Longstone Parish Council, Longstone Byre, Little Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1NN. Tel: **01629 640851**. Email: **parishcouncil@greatlongstone.org**

LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 28th February 7pm
in Little Longstone Chapel

Parish Clerk Recruitment

Great Longstone Parish Council is still recruiting for a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for this flexible, home-based post, working around 40 hours per month. Full details, along with the Job Description and Person Specification and details of how to apply, are on our website at **greatlongstone.net/parishclerk**.

We are looking for someone with previous experience and recognised qualification in local government administration, or the commitment to study and obtain the ILCA qualification within six months and the Certificate in Local Council Administration within two years of commencement of the post.

For an informal discussion, please email Mrs Wendy Long, Chair of Great Longstone Parish Council, at **jwandew.long@btinternet.com**, or the current Clerk at **parishcouncil@greatlongstone.org**. To apply, email your CV to the Chair.

Simon Headington for GLPC

Main Street Closure

Main Street will be closed between the White Lion and the entrance to the school from 8am Monday 19th February to 4pm Thursday 22nd for essential water repairs by Severn Trent Water.

What a Laugh!

Ian Cox's mention of the old slaughter house reminded me of an incident back in the early 1970s.

We lived at Gritstone House on Moor Road for many years and one day there was a knock on the door and a young woman asked where the entrance to the 'licensed laughter house' was. We were quite bemused but she explained that the wooden sign on the gable end of the building mentioned the 'licensed laughter house'. We walked down to the bottom of the road with her and quickly realised the reason for the confusion. The letter 'S' on Slaughter House was covered in bird poo!

So it was a laughter house after all.

Michael Wager

Longstone Local History Group

The next talk will be on Tuesday 20th February in the Village Hall at 7.45pm by John Winkworth-Smith on *The History of Drovers*.

Peter Stubbs's talk on the *Great Escape of Charles II* will be on Tuesday 19th March, and Lorna Briggs' *Derbyshire Folk* on Tuesday 16th April.

Angela Robinson

The Old School House

So here we go again. I understand that the sale of the Old School House has fallen through. I don't know why, but it is up for sale again. So the Derby Diocesan Board of Education (DDBE) is faced with another protracted sale process. When I asked them in early September to give the village time to raise funds to purchase the building, their reason for refusing was that they did not wish to incur further expense. I asked for three months, and it has taken more than that to get to a second sale, and will probably still be ongoing a further three months from now.

As before, no one in Longstone was informed of this before the second sale was announced, so no one has had time to consider what the village can do to retain the building for the community. We need to think again about its potential use and how to raise funds, particularly now a community sports association is under consideration.

This building has historical and cultural significance to Longstone that is incomprehensible to any bureaucracy, but let us hope it can be retained. As it is soon Lent, I shall be giving up berating the DDBE and will take up a more worthwhile dialogue with them, and hope they do likewise. If and when I know more, I shall keep you informed. Wish me luck.

Frank Hammond

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February Gardening Notes



I always think of February as the month for snowdrops (*see photo*) but there are other spring flowers coming into bloom such as cyclamen, primroses, aconites and hellebores. I am cutting back last year's perennials now as the spring flowers emerge from beneath them. This also exposes a few weeds, which can be dug out and some compost can be spread out

to revitalise the soil. I will be getting out my propagator and setting it up in the greenhouse ready to start sowing seeds. Checking out last year's labels, I noted that I actually sowed tomato seeds on the 18th February, a bit early but they did all right. Tomatoes grow away quite quickly so the problem is finding the space for them. There are plenty of other seeds that can be sown such as sweet peas, broad beans, onions, leeks and cabbage. The ground is still too wet and cold for outdoor sowings, although I have a polythene cloche which I will put up in the allotment to warm up the soil.

I see that the garden centres have seed potatoes and plug plants for sale, but I will wait till next month before purchasing. The plug plants also grow away quickly and space for them to grow becomes a problem – we haven't all got Monty Don size greenhouses! I suffered some damage to my netting frames in the allotment with the strong winds that battered us in December, so I will make some repairs before the start of the growing season. We are really starting to notice the longer days now, so can look forward to spring and another gardening year. **Andy Hanna**

SPRING 2024 What's on



To sign up

- Use our [Online booking form](https://bit.ly/3H9SNIM)
- or go to bit.ly/3H9SNIM
- Or email 4leap@gmail.com



LEAP subsidises events and activities for all residents of Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Rowland, Monsal Head, Hassop and Wardlow.

Date	Event	Information	Charge
Saturday 3rd February 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	 Workshop making delicate hessian flowers	Angela Unwin will run this family friendly session making unique flowers that can be used to decorate cards, garlands and jewellery.	Free but please book
Saturday 24th February Arrival for 7 p.m.	Curry cooking masterclass with Network Chilli 	Join Carl 'Curry' Brown for an evening of British Indian restaurant curry making. Make your own delicious curry to eat on the night.	£25 Book here Licensed Bar
Saturday 20th January Saturday 2nd March 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.	Crochet Workshops with Marge Elliot 'The Tweed Queen'	Come and learn to crochet or just improve your skills with Marge and be inspired to create your own project.	£5 per workshop
Friday 8th March 10 a.m. — 12 noon	Men's Cookery Class Taster Session	Come and learn how to make a hearty and tasty vegetable soup with expert cook Annie Davey.	Free but please book
Saturday 16th March 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.	Yoga Workshop with Sue Firth Jones 	Join us for another seasonal and energising yoga session.	£5
Saturday 23rd March 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.	Pottery Workshop Earth Paper Fibre 	Come and make a unique decorated pot using newspaper transfer print technique under the expert tuition of Mel McDonald.	£20
Sunday 28th April 7.30 p.m.	Live and Local Ruth Angell Multi instrumentalist Singer and Songwriter	Save the date for this—tickets will sell fast!	£12 Book here
Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.	Tread Softly 'A walk on the mild side' <i>See posters around the village.</i>	Join in a gentle walk in and around the village. For more information contact Helen Milton 01629 761194 Email: helen.milton@derbyshiredales.gov.uk	Free
Wed 31st January Wed 28th February Wed 27th March Wed 24th April Wed 29th May		Book Swap Café Last Wednesday of every month 2 p.m.— 4 p.m.	<i>Bring a couple of books to swap and enjoy a chat, a cuppa and a slice of cake.</i>

HESSIAN & STRING FLOWERS WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd February 2-4

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CROCHET WORKSHOPS WITH THE TWEED QUEEN

Saturday 2nd March 1-4.30

Come and learn or improve your crochet skills with Marge Elliot, Tweed Queen.
Marge will guide you through the basics, or help you move on if you have some skills already.
£5 per session



Ten members enjoyed a wonderful New Year dinner, thanks to all the staff at the Crispin.

Our next meeting is on 7th February at 7.30 in the Village Hall, with Beth from Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport. Teas will be served by Ann Spring and Sue Copper, and the competition this month is 'your favourite brooch'.

Anyone wanting to find out about our WI, just come along and enjoy the evening, or ring me on **07876 481946**. New members always welcome.

Zoe McGregor



Ice Cream Contract

Having read in your last edition about the parish awarding a concession to sell ice cream at Monsal Head, I'd like to bring something to your readers' attention.

Last weekend, I walked from Great Longstone to Litton and back, passing Monsal Head on both routes. I noticed that the ice cream van had its diesel engine running constantly.

There were only two bidders, Fredericks of Chesterfield and Hobbs café. I noticed also that the losing bidder (Hobbs café) have an ice cream trailer that is plugged into a power source in the cafe building. Aside from not supporting local business, did the parish not consider the environmental effect of each bidder?

Sean Hickinson

Attention All Farmers!

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) is a Defra-funded programme targeted at farmers and land managers, which runs until March 2025. Funding is available for projects which deliver for one or more of the following themes:

- Climate, including reducing flood risk
- Nature, targeting nature recovery
- People, including enhanced access, interpretation and volunteering
- Place, including landscape, cultural heritage and support for increasing the resilience of nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses

We are particularly interested in projects that deliver multiple theme outcomes. In the past two years, £1.65m has been awarded to Peak District farmers and land managers, and there is a further £3m to award before March 2025.

More information is available at peakdistrict.gov.uk/fiopl or by scanning the QR code. To speak to a FiPL Officer or Farm Adviser, you can either call **01629 816200** or email farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

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Peak Park Pulls No Punches in Cressbrook Dale



The PDNPA have now sent the bulldozers in and removed the unauthorised works at Cressbrook Dale, following the failure by the landowners to acknowledge or

outraged by PDNPA's intervention and would be inspecting the site before deciding on their next steps, but she would not be deterred from creating a spiritual meeting place on the site. She added that she believed the PDNPA had not followed due process and she would report any damage to the police as a criminal act. Furthermore, she was not prepared to let the matter rest, as she personally believed that everything had been done within the group's lawful rights, and that the the PDNPA action was an absolute violation of

engage with Planning Contravention and Enforcement Notices issued over the course of the past 18 months (*UTE September 2022, May and September 2023, January 2024*). The Phoenix Rose group purchased 70 acres of the Dale in May 2022, though this was reduced to 50 acres in August 2023.

Save Cressbrook Dale campaigners remain concerned about the owners' intentions, as they recently announced their intention to clear an area of land to build a 'chapel', and have said they will install security gates on the public right of way leading to the Open Access land.

Rachel Elnaugh told the *Derbyshire Times* that she was

those rights. In a YouTube video, Rachel denounced the action as an absolute outrage, calling on the *Save Cressbrook Dale* group to come and hang their heads in shame at the part they had played in the desecration and devastation of the land.



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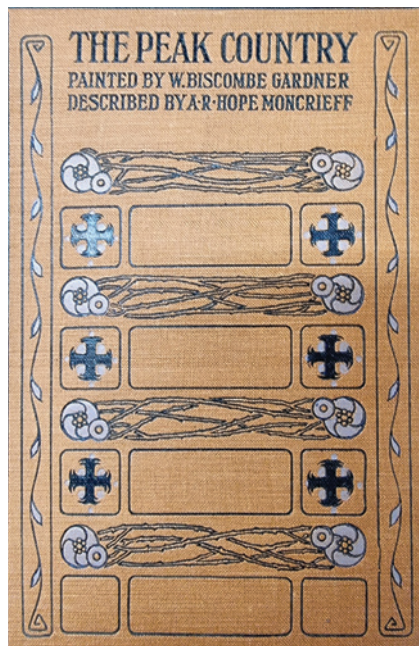
Hope Valley Line

The works to improve journeys between Sheffield and Manchester are close to completion, but to finish the project there will be full and partial line closures until early May.

Trains will be running on most days, but it is important

to check before travelling. Disruptions will be mainly on Saturdays and Sundays until the last planned closure, Saturday 27th April through Wednesday 1st May. Passenger trains will then be able to pass slower freight trains on the route.

Idyllic Peak Country Views from 1908



Fiona Harrison was recently given this beautiful book published in 1908 that has 24 colour illustrations, including this idyllic scene of The Old Cross, Great Longstone

Louise Jordan

Dr Louise Jordan, for many years the much-loved senior partner of the Baslow Health Centre, passed away peacefully on 23rd December. Her funeral was held in Edensor Church on 19th January. She was a very large part of the community she served, and featured in the BBC documentary series *The Real Peak Practice*. The practice have provided a condolences book for patients to write in if they so wish.

Responsible for establishing Helen's Trust in 2001, when she was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in October 2021 she helped raise awareness and funds for the new Rob Burrow Centre for MND in Leeds (*UTE February 2023*).

Dr Jordan's wish was for any donations to be donated to the *Kevin Sinfield 7 in 7 in 7 MND* charity (online at giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/kevin-sinfield) or Helen's Trust.

Pot Holes - the Elephant in the Room

After a wet autumn, and more rain after Christmas, many parts of the Peak District have been underwater recently. Festive cheer over, the start of January saw social media flooded with complaints about potholes. In response the DCC, our MP and all three prospective East Midlands mayoral candidates have been busy on social media, urging people to report potholes, telling other people to repair potholes, or promising to fix potholes if they get elected, respectively.



Now, nobody likes potholes. They're inconvenient, cause damage to vehicles and can be life-threatening, especially to those riding two-wheeled modes of transport. What nobody seems to be mentioning is that if all we do is fix the potholes, so that we can continue driving around safely, we will find ourselves in worsening groundhog days each winter. Emissions from vehicles contribute to climate change. A warmer climate leads to more intense and more

frequent rainfall. The roads, and much else, will continue to be damaged and the bills for repair will mount.

It's frustrating that the public narrative about the state of our roads fails to acknowledge this. Spent wisely, the big transport budget that the East Midlands mayor will wield could do much to reduce emissions. Encouraging active travel (more cycling and walking), improving public transport (frequent and affordable buses and trains), increasing EV charging points and encouraging more freight on to rail instead of road would all help to reduce the problems we are likely to face from severe weather in the future. Simply repairing the potholes will only make them worse.

It might seem difficult for an individual to have an impact on big issues like transport infrastructure, but everybody can make a difference. Our elected representatives are there to represent us, whether at district, county, constituency or soon to be East Midlands Combined County Authority level. Write to them all, and don't forget to vote at the mayoral election in May.

Another way you can make your actions count is by supporting our local bus services. Our village bus, the 173, is generally reliable. It will take you to Bakewell or Castleton for £2 (or nothing, if you have a bus pass). If you normally drive to Bakewell for shopping, or appointments, can you try taking the bus for just one day?

In the next issue of UTE I hope to be able to tell you about a new bus user group that we're setting up for Bakewell, so if you want to get involved with local campaigning your chance is coming. But whatever you do, please don't just avoid the next pothole you see and wish that somebody would fix the blasted thing. We can bring about change, but only if we all do something. **Georgina Blair**

February Farming Notes: 2023 – A Year to Remember?

It feels good to have started a new year! I was definitely ready to leave 2023 behind, after what felt like in many ways quite a challenging year.

The positives were that grass grew well due to the regular rainfall, which had a positive impact on the livestock. In particular, the lambs grew very well and the lamb trade was good compared to 2022, so in that respect it was a successful year.

March sticks in my memory because we had a heavy snowfall mid-March. Usually at this time, we are busy with field work, chain harrowing the land and rolling, to prepare the ground for spring and flatten out the lumps and bumps caused by the livestock and tractors over the wet months. Instead, we were deep in snow, and then after that a very wet spell, which continued right the way through into April.

Lambing time was particularly challenging due to the weather – cold, wet and windy. Then May arrived and finally we had a dry settled spell of weather that continued until mid-June, after which the rain fell heavily. July could only be described as a ‘washout’ – one of the wettest since records began. A disappointing summer!

Haymaking was a scrappy affair, just managing to get the bulk of the hay in during four dry days in August. The weather forecast was always changing and it was a frustrating time.

We finished our haymaking in September amid glorious sunshine, and we also cracked on with some fencing projects at this time. October, November and December all felt like a bit of a struggle, feeling like we might get washed away! Storms and floods and dark days of heavy rain. So by the end of 2023, I was definitely ready to see the back of the year.

Using the Buxton Weather website records as a reference point, 2023 saw over 70 inches of rainfall, in comparison to the average which is 46 inches annually! So it really was exceptionally wet and many farmers remarked how it was one of the wettest they could remember.

And now 2024 is here, so I start looking forward again. Looking forward to spring, enjoying the days getting longer – we have seen an improvement in the weather with more dry days. It has been very cold, but a good opportunity to start clearing up from the storm damage. We had some walls and trees down in the strong wind during December. The frosty days are a real joy compared to wind and rain. The stock look happier to be dry and the ground is solid underfoot, which is a lot nicer! We shall be scanning the ewes and the Highland cows soon, to check for pregnancies, and then we will have a better idea of what to look forward to in terms of new life on the farm in the months ahead.

Joanna Shimwell



Dear All,

As I write this personal reflection on Lent, it is the beginning of January. Many will have made a New Year's resolution, and some will already have broken it, either through a lack of will power or sheer forgetfulness. Gyms have their biggest boost in January and a substantial proportion of new members will drop out in short time. Diets will begin and soon be dropped, and resolutions to give up this or that will end too soon. Such is human nature and I admire those who maintain their resolve – I've failed already.

February sees the beginning of Lent, the Christian season of preparation for Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending at Easter Saturday. It lasts for forty days and Sundays are not counted. It is based on the Gospel narrative of Jesus entering the wilderness to prepare for his mission. The narrative describes the three temptations of giving material possessions greater importance than spiritual, trusting in political power before faith, and demanding unrealistic requests of God. Each temptation is rebuffed with a biblical quotation, for example, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test". The three temptations are about prioritising a true faith grounded in what really matters before all else.

Not many of us have political power, but we do hold power over the

people around us – family, friends and colleagues. Lent can be a time to reflect on these relationships and aim to put them on a more positive footing. This element of the temptations is complex and a challenge to apply, but none of this is meant to be easy.

Jesus also quotes from the Old Testament, "Man cannot live by bread alone". After a consumer-led Christmas, this has resonance and is a welcome relief from a focus on the endlessly material. Christians are asked to reflect on the priority they give to the material in contrast to the spiritual.

Christians are invited to imitate Jesus in some small but important way. Many abstain from a favourite food, in my case chocolate. It is a symbolic action but needs to be supported and reinforced by a spiritual renewal and close personal reflection on the true Christian life. Most people think of Lent as a season of abstinence and fasting, but there is also a tradition of taking up charitable giving, which is a more positive Lenten action. So consider a worthy cause to support not just with money but perhaps also your time.

Spiritual renewal and reflection are a preparation for Easter and deeper understanding of the mission of Jesus and what personal significance this has for us. Christians should reflect on their own personal power over others and consider changing this for the better.

They should also reflect on the relative importance of their faith in relation to material well-being. Finally, Jesus asks that we do not make unrealistic demands of our God.

During Lent, we meet at St Giles every day for prayer, biblical and other reflection by way of a short service. We also reflect on our relationship with God and renew our understanding of the Christian life, particularly on the three temptations of Jesus in the desert. It is much valued by those who take part because it deepens our understanding of our faith, both as individuals and as a community, and what it takes to follow in the steps of Jesus. If you cannot join us, then ask for a Lenten booklet and set aside fifteen minutes each day to read and pray.

So abstinence, giving and spiritual understanding all play their part in Lent, but its focus is on a spiritual preparation for Easter and getting our priorities right.

Frank Hammond, Church Warden

Matlock Food Bank

If you would like to make a donation, did you know that there is a reception point in St. Giles at the back of the church? This is regularly sent to Matlock as the donations fill up.

Thank you to all who contribute to this much needed cause.

Richard Carter

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Services in February

4th February - 2nd before Lent

9am Eucharist (Wardlow)
11am Parish Eucharist (St. Giles)

11th February - Sunday before Lent

9am Morning Worship (Wardlow)
11am Morning Worship (St. Giles)

14th February - Ash Wednesday

7pm Parish Eucharist (St. Giles)
(with Imposition of Ashes)

18th February - Lent 1

11am Parish Eucharist (St. Giles)

25th February - Lent 2

11am Parish Eucharist (St. Giles)

Daily Lent Prayers

8.45am Monday-Saturday (St. Giles)
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Angela Thornhill's Corn and Cheese Chowder

Chowder is often associated with clams, especially in New England. One Boston restaurant, famous for its chowder, has become a go-to tourist attraction where the staff pass out raunchy insults, chuck napkins down on the table

Serves 4

1 large onion
1 large potato
4 rashers streaky bacon
1 tbsp oil
2 level tbsp plain flour
300ml chicken stock
200g can sweetcorn
300ml milk
120g cheddar cheese



and tell you what beer you'll get if you don't make your mind up fast enough. They have to pass several auditions before getting the job, to make sure they're rude enough!

However, chowder is essentially just a thick soup made with cream, flour and vegetables. This delicious and filling recipe from Angela is perfect for lunch on a cold winter's morning, and served with a roll of bread is a meal in itself.

Chop the onion and bacon, then peel and dice the potato. Fry these together in the oil for five minutes, before stirring in the flour and cooking for a further minute. Then stir in the stock and simmer until the potato is cooked. Add the drained sweetcorn and cook for five more minutes.

Finally, stir in the milk and cheese. Heat until the cheese has melted and season to taste with salt and pepper.

February in the Garden

Lawns: Spike lawns with a fork if surface drainage is poor. You can even give the lawn a light trim towards the end of the month - if weather conditions permit.

Roses: Prune towards the end of the month. Pruning of Winter Jasmine should be done as soon as the flowers fade.

Greenhouses: Keep ventilating greenhouses when the weather is mild, but do close up from late afternoon to 'store' some heat through into the night. Clean up the greenhouse prior to spring sowings.

Bulbs: Bulbs which have finished flowering indoors can be planted straight from their containers into the garden - weather permitting. Carefully separate into single bulbs firstly. Apply a dressing of 'fish blood and bonemeal'.

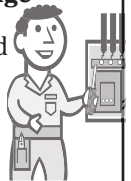
Fruit: Complete the pruning of fruit trees and continue planting in suitable conditions. It's your last chance to complete winter spraying with tar oil wash. Cut back autumn fruiting raspberries to about 15cm off the ground and trim the tops of canes of summer fruiting raspberries. Prune figs. Spray outdoor peaches, apricots, and nectarines with a fungicide to control peach leaf curl. It is important to do this as a 'preventative' rather than to try it later as a 'cure'.

General tasks: It is a good idea to find out what your soil is like especially if you have a new garden or allotment. A soil testing kit will enable you to determine not only the pH of your soil, but some will show if there is a deficiency in nitrogen, phosphate, or potash. This is a good month for a dressing of bonemeal to shrub borders and beds. It takes a few weeks before it starts to break down in the soil, so it will be a ready source of plant food when the plants need it in a few weeks.

Steve Walton Electrical

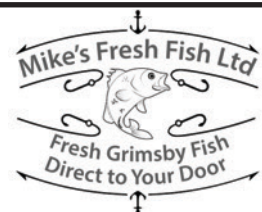
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Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Thursdays - Knit and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
3rd February - LEAP Hessian Flower Workshop, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 8)
7th February - WI talk by Beth from BECT, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 9)
11th February - BASH, *Licorice Pizza*, Medway Centre, 7.30pm (page 2)
20th February - LL History Group, *The History of Drovers*, GL Village Hall 7.45pm (page 7)
24th February - LEAP Curry cooking class, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 8) £25
27th February - Thornbridge Estate talk, *History of Garden Design* 12.30pm (page 10) £11
28th February - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall 2-4pm (page 8)
2nd March - LEAP Crochet Workshop, GL Village Hall 1.30-4pm (page 8) £5
13th March - GL Parish Council Meeting, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 7)

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Shepherd's Delight?



JMW Turner's best sunsets were painted in Margate. This December photo from Sarah Stephenson shows they happen here too!

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:

Thursday 15th February

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.

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