



UNDER THE EDGE

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

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Bullock Sterteth, Buck Verteth, Merrily Sing Cuckoo - Summer is Icumen In!



Hard to believe as we go to print, but hey, let's be optimistic! The first cuckoo is often heard in March, and last year's mild spring led to reports in Disley at the end of January and Yorkshire in February. Somehow, I doubt it will have been that early this year! Traditionally, it's associated with St Tiburtius Day on 14th April. Let us know when you hear your first one! The snowdrops in St Giles' churchyard were particularly spectacular this year. Whereas last year one side of the path came into flower a couple of weeks before the other side, this time they synchronised their appearances.

April Gardening Notes

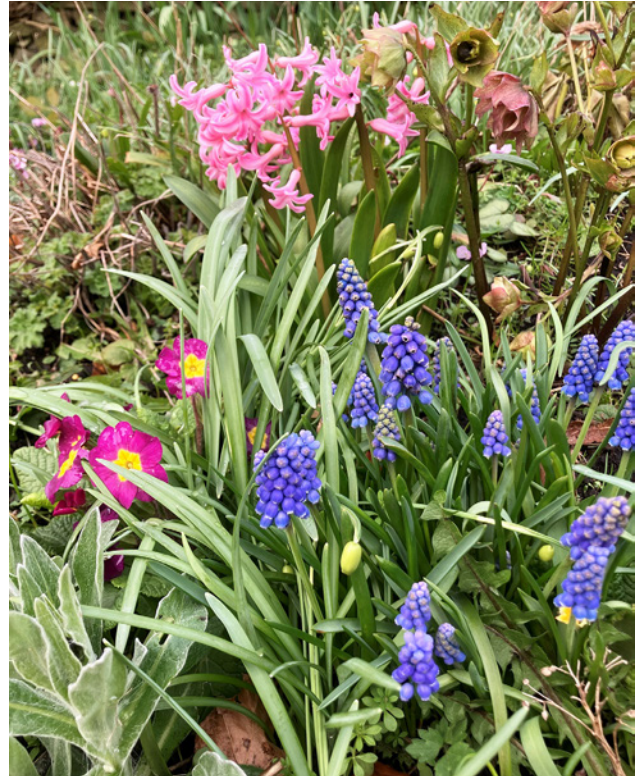
The weather is slowly improving – less rainy days and more sunshine, but you still need to wrap up warm when out in the garden. We have gone from the February snowdrops and March daffodils to April bluebells ending the spring flower display. The photo shows muscari and hyacinths. A sign that the soil is warming up is when the weeds start to grow and the lawns need their first cut – don't cut the grass too short at this time of year. It is a busy time of year and the greenhouse gets full to overflowing. Seeds sown earlier now need pricking out and potting on, and there are more seeds to sow.

I have had good germination of tomatoes and will be planting these into 3" pots to grow on. They really do grow quickly, so when the roots fill the pots I will pot them on into 5" pots, and then into their final home in a 10" or 12" pot in the greenhouse. I am growing my regular crop of Sungold, Tumbling Tom and Moneymaker tomatoes but am trying a couple of new varieties – Sahel plum and a black variety called Black Moon.

I love sweetcorn, and April is the right time to sow the seed, as they grow quickly indoors before planting out in the garden in May. My succulents and cacti are starting to grow away, so after a winter without water they are now getting a weekly watering, with the occasional liquid feed. I installed another water butt in the winter so will have a better supply if we get a prolonged dry spell.

I will plant potatoes towards the end of the month, not quite so many this time as I had a surplus last year. The broad beans I sowed in pots earlier can now be planted in the ground and I will sow more, so that we have a continuous supply. Such plants as brussels, cabbage, kale, broccoli and cauliflower need to be protected from the white butterfly caterpillars with netting. It is also time to pick rhubarb whilst the stems are tender and sweet.

Andy Hanna



Missing Dogs – Can You Help?



Mavis and Penny went missing from their usual walk on the path near the Dove Valley Centre (postcode SK17 0PR), near Sheen, Buxton on 7th February. On 24th February, there was a potential but very credible sighting of Mavis at the grey phone box, Glutton Bridge at 11.45am. There's also been another sighting of Mavis, but sadly not Penny. They are young and athletic gun dogs, and can travel far.

Both dogs are female, spayed and chipped. Mavis is a black and white German short-haired Pointer with a black collar and no tag. Penny is a brown Hungarian Vizsla with a purple leather collar and ID tag.

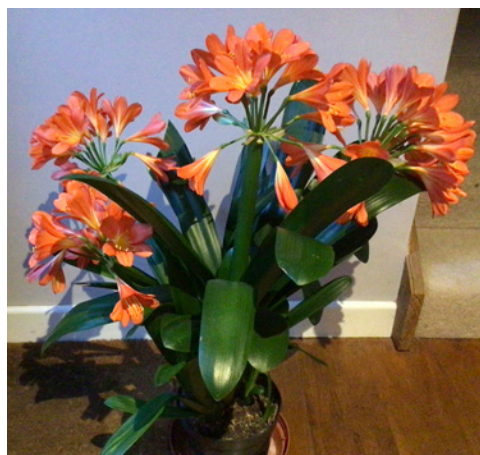
If you see them, please do not chase them, as they will run – just call **07889 495323** or **07970 215535** with location, time and direction of travel. I'm offering a substantial reward for any information that leads to the dogs' return to us. **Michelle Bannister**

Clivia on Offer!

I wonder if anyone would like a piece of my Clivia, as I will have to divide it soon, because it is getting too big, but it has looked spectacular. It is so easy to look after – in fact I think it thrives on neglect! – and I would be pleased to pass some of it on. Clivias are tender bulbous perennials from South Africa.

If you're interested, please call me on **01629 640023**.

Jennifer Rowson





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Results of Neighbourhood Plan and Housing Surveys

The Neighbourhood Plan survey questions were based on our six workstreams.

The results were very interesting, with many responses cut across the workstreams and included:

- Connections and movement (buses, walking safety, parking, traffic): This is the biggest 'linker' – better buses and safer, wider pavements come up for older people, families, and 'everyone'. Parking and traffic problems tie straight into tourism impacts and village liveability.
- Tourism–housing balance (holiday lets/second homes ↔ affordability ↔ year-round community): Tourism is valued for keeping amenities viable, but holiday lets/second homes are repeatedly linked to affordability, fewer permanent residents, and weaker year-round vitality (including knock-ons like school/community life).
- Keeping village life viable (amenities + shared spaces + activities): The shop, pubs and services, plus well-used community spaces and activities (youth provision, Men's Shed-type ideas, recreation ground and Village Hall), are framed as the practical glue for social connection and quality of life.

- Respect for countryside and public spaces (dogs, litter, behaviour): The same behaviour issues show up as tourism downsides, day-to-day liveability issues, and land management, farming and wildlife concerns.
- Core infrastructure and resilience (drainage, roads, broadband, climate and energy constraints): People link basic maintenance (potholes, paths, flooding hot spots) with connectivity (broadband, mobile for working, life) and futureproofing (EV charging, retrofit or renewables balanced with heritage and character).

These themes are not the Village Plan, but they are pointers for the six workgroups (Business & Tourism, Transport, Energy & Climate, Community, Land Management & Nature Recovery, Housing & Physical Infrastructure). More details will be posted to the Neighbourhood Plan page on the Parish Council website greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk/longstone-area-neighbourhood-plan.

The Derbyshire Dales Housing Survey identified that up to nine affordable houses are required to satisfy local demand. The next steps will be to investigate potential acceptable sites.

Andy Douglass

Bentleys, Buses and an Eco Centre

Alan Graves, who last featured in this column after writing to King Charles on DCC-headed notepaper, asking him to dissolve Parliament, has hit the headlines again (in the *Derbyshire Times*) by driving his Reform-blue Bentley to Newhaven Services on the A515, which had been decorated with Reform-branded posters, declaring a price drop of 25p per litre of fuel for customers, subsidised by Reform. After all, they've had so much funding from fossil fuel interests, that they can afford to give a little back.

Nigel Farage and Robert Jenrick turned up to criticise the government's plans to increase fuel duty, and to say that instead, Reform would save money by, amongst other things, ending the Electric Car Grant (which gives up to £3,750 off eligible new electric vehicles costing under £37,000). Jenrick said, 'People on low incomes rely on their cars. Reform is a party for working people, so by cutting fuel duty we'll make it just that little bit easier to get by, do your business and get to work.' Graves wasn't quite on-brand – his 2024 Bentley Continental GT is a plug-in hybrid (cost when new around £236,000).

Fuel duty on standard petrol and diesel is 52.95 pence per litre, and has been frozen since 2011. It also includes a temporary 5 pence cut introduced in 2022 and extended ever since. Fuel duty revenue contributes to the UK's general public spending, and so helps to fund essential public services like the NHS, and to pay for transport infrastructure. The freeze in fuel duty has reduced public funds by about £150 billion since 2011. Although the freeze in fuel duty is often portrayed as a way to support low-income households, it is richer households that benefit the most, as they tend to drive more and own more cars, which are often less fuel-efficient (all those SUVs!).

The government is proposing to increase fuel duty by 1 pence per litre in September 2026, which will slightly increase the costs of motoring in a combustion engine vehicle. In 2025, bus fares went up by 50% when the £2 fare cap was increased to £3, and train fares increase every year. The best way to help people with costs of transport is to make

it unnecessary to have a car by improving public transport, or to make cars which cost less to run (aka EVs) more affordable, not to carry on favouring the mode of transport which is worst for our health and worst for the planet.

A really exciting proposal that could improve public transport in the Longstones has been launched by Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA). Called 'Switzerland in the Peak District', it's a plan to demonstrate Swiss-style clock-face timetables and connections between buses and trains at stations along the Hope Valley line. The Longstones aren't in the Hope Valley, but our 173 bus service connects Bakewell to Castleton and is included in the plans. If the proposal goes ahead, we would have a bus every hour from about seven in the morning to just before midnight. We know from responses to the village survey that lots of people would like to use the bus, but can't because it's just not practical due to the current lack of frequency and limited hours of operation. The East Midlands Mayor's Transport Team is working with HVCA to source funding for the pilot, which would run for five years. Showing public support for this proposal is essential, so if an hourly 173 bus that also ran in the evenings would change your life (including those of you who would be taking the bus for the first time ever!), please email transportplan@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk, with 'Peak District in Switzerland' in the subject line, addressing your email to James Lyons, telling him why the improved 173 service would make a difference to you.

And finally, one of the first things the Reform-led County Council did last year was to close five adult education learning centres. The Derbyshire Eco Centre in Wirksworth was among them, but after a crowd-funding campaign and the successful listing of the Eco Centre as an asset of community value, the centre is due to reopen under a partnership between the Derbyshire Eco Centre CIC (community interest company) and the Institute of Quarrying. The centre's new website is derbyshireecocentre.co.uk. We can have nice things, but we have to fight for them!

Georgina Blair

Christine Patricia ('Pat') Taft 25th December 1928 – 17th February 2026



Pat Crowder was born on Christmas Day 1928 in Matlock Bath. She grew up there, starting at Miss White's School in Darley Dale before going on to St Elphin's in Darley Dale. Pat's first job was as a receptionist at Smedley's Hydro, but she soon decided to enrol on a secretarial course at Derby Technical College. It was here in 1949 that she met her future husband Mike, who was studying engineering as an apprentice at Rolls Royce. Mike was instantly smitten, though he was not without early competition from an agricultural auctioneer, who was the proud owner of a new car! Mike remembers walking Pat to Derby station, where he felt emboldened to put his arm through hers. She froze, and looking straight ahead, said, "Do you know how old I am?" He was 18, she 20. This did not put Mike off, however, and he well remembers Pat's 21st party, held at the Matlock Bath Hotel. Pat's great love of music meant that courting always had to wait until she had finished her piano practice. They would not marry for five more years.

Although Pat had no interest in Mike's enthusiasm for motorcycles, which took him to races all over the country and the Isle of Man, she was apparently a fantastic pillion rider. Mike had to forego a race day at Silverstone in order to propose to Pat in his parents' house! So it was that they were married on 24th April 1958 in Matlock Bath. They lived in Chellaston for a year, as it was conveniently close to Mike's work, before moving into a two-bedroom bungalow in Allestree.

Pat and Mike had four children – Stephen the eldest, born in 1958, Christopher, Johanne, and the youngest, George, born in 1968. In 1962, while Pat was expecting Johanne, they bought a four-bedroom house in the village of Allestree from a retired sea captain and his wife, who clearly relished the

new owners being a young family. They were to live there very happily for the next 40 years.

By now, Mike was marketing Rolls Royce's jet engines to airlines in Africa and the Middle East. This involved extensive travelling, and Pat would often accompany him on his African trips, when she would indulge her new-found interest in watercolour painting.

One of the Tafts' shared interests was walking in the Peak District, and it was this that was to bring them to Great Longstone. A chance conversation with shop owner Neville Casey, who shared Mike's love of motorcycles, about how they would love to retire here, paid off when Neville rang them a week later to let them know that Brian Edwards' cottage on Main Street was becoming available, as Brian (founder of *Under the Edge*) was building himself a new house up Mires Lane.



Pat's knitted dolls made during visits to Africa



A few of Pat's beautiful watercolours

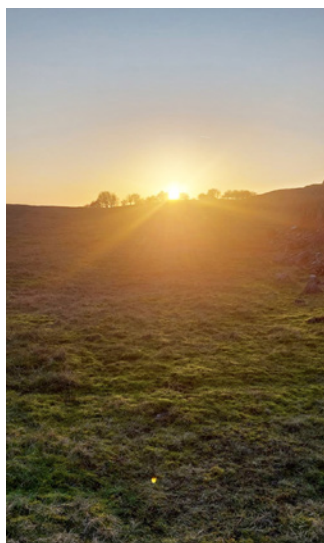
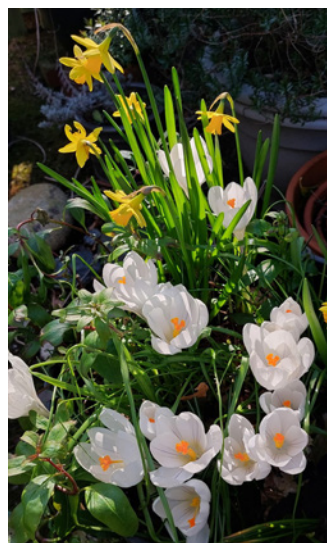
Pat became involved in Great Longstone activities, as a regular member of the Village Hall Art and Knit and Natter groups, and was a keen gardener and embroiderer. She and Mike also enjoyed attending the Longstone Local History Group meetings, then run by Anne Hall, who lives in Baslow.

Sadly, about five years ago, Pat was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Her condition slowly worsened, though she continued to live at home, with Mike as her sole carer. Extra help would come from Daisy Chain, with Donna as a particular godsend. Unfortunately, just before Christmas last year, Pat fell down and broke her wrist. She was taken to Calow to be checked out, before being transferred to Bakewell Cottage Nursing Home to convalesce. She was well looked after, with visits from Mike every day, but sadly she passed away in the middle of February.



Pat conducting the band at a Probus dinner in 2021

Easter Sunday Sunrise Walk



Would you like to join us in walking up the Edge on Easter Sunday, on 5th April? We will leave from St Giles Church lychgate at 5.30am promptly (sunrise will be at 6.30am). Near the top, we will meet in the flat clearing just to the left of the top left-hand bend in Moor Road at around 6.30am. Those who would rather drive can park nearby and join us.

'It sounds like a good thing to do' ... 'walking in good company to see a new dawn can bring hope and joy to those with and without a faith.' Everyone is very welcome. It will

be an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the beautiful place in which we live, and those who live, work, visit and look after our community and to pray for the victims of war and for peace across the world.

Heather in the Village Shop has very kindly offered to cook bacon butties to be served in the Village Hall, depending on interest and numbers signing up. The price will be around £5, with any profits going to charity. Please sign up in the Village Shop before 1pm on Sunday 29th March if you would like to join us on the walk, and whether you would like a hot drink and bacon butty or hot cross bun on descent. If you prefer to just come for the breakfast, please sign up and indicate 'breakfast only' on the form. Any offers of help with catering will be gratefully received – please indicate this on the form.

Anyone wishing to join the main Easter Sunday service at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Wardlow at 9am can walk on over, where you will be warmly welcomed (please take a snack). Otherwise, please feel very welcome to come back to Longstone for breakfast, where afterwards, if you would like to, you can join the 10.30am Easter Sunday service in St Giles. The bellringers hope to join us briefly for breakfast, around 9.30am.

Do join us on the walk if you are used to walking up hills at a goodish pace, and are confident and able to. Friendly dogs are welcome if kept under control on a short lead.

Alison Waltho

Annual Parish Meetings Coming Up

We're now well into Annual Parish Meeting season, with each of our five civil parishes legally required to hold their Annual Assembly between 1st March and 1st June each year.

The purposes vary slightly as in Great Longstone most of the power and responsibilities lie with the Parish Council, so the meeting will primarily be informative, though of course it is open for anyone on the electoral roll to bring up any matters that they wish. At this year's meeting at 7pm on 29th April in the Village Hall, there will be updates on the Council's activities of the past year, a progress report on the Neighbourhood Plan, and an update from the Thornhill House Trustees on their proposed move to Station Road.

In the four smaller parishes, the Annual Assemblies have more importance. A primary duty at these public meetings is to elect the Chair for the coming year, but they also have a small number of other powers and can make decisions that affect their areas. Legislation has caught up with them too –

they now fall firmly within the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the 2015 Finance Regulations, regardless of whether or not they spend any money. Key duties for all five parishes include an Internal Audit (primarily a check that decision-making processes have been lawful, rather than a detailed review of finances), and approval of their Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). One update to the AGAR for this year is that now the email addresses for all Parish Clerks must use their own domain names, and some people will already have seen that Little Longstone have moved over to clerk@littlelongstoneparishmeeting.gov.uk. Little Longstone's Annual Parish Meeting is on 28th May in the Little Longstone Chapel.

So, local democracy in action. We'll miss it when it is gone, but we'll only keep it if people get involved. Look out for details on your Parish Noticeboards for your local meetings.

Simon Headington

The Monsal Canteen



Recently, at a meeting in the Great Longstone Village Hall, where Andy Douglass was presenting information on the Neighbourhood and Village plans, it was mentioned that we didn't have a café in the village. I had recently been to have a drink in the newly opened Canteen in The Monsal, so we thought we ought to tell you about it.

Perched high above the iconic viaduct at Monsal Head, The Monsal's **Canteen** is the second chapter in the exciting transformation of the former Monsal Head hotel – and it's quickly becoming a favourite spot for locals and visitors alike.

Open seven days a week from 8am, The **Canteen** starts the day right with hearty breakfasts, served alongside one of the best views in the Peaks. Expect classics like a full English and bacon or sausage butties, plus flavour-packed favourites such as a breakfast skillet and breakfast burrito – inspired by travels and much-loved dishes from further afield.

As the morning unfolds, breakfast flows effortlessly into brunch and lunch. The menu features comforting café staples, including homemade soup with crusty bread, fresh

salads, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches and pizettes – each with a signature Monsal twist, focusing on wholesome, satisfying flavours. If you've still got room for something sweet, the homemade patisserie selection is as tempting to look at as it is to eat – the perfect treat with a coffee after a countryside stroll.

You'll find expertly brewed coffees, speciality teas, indulgent hot chocolate and a selection of prosecco, bottled ales and beers from local micro-brewery Peak Ales – ideal for a relaxed brunch or well-earned refreshment.

Whether you're setting off to explore the Peak District, meeting up with friends, or winding down after a long walk, The Monsal's **Canteen** offers relaxed dining with one of Derbyshire's most spectacular backdrops. It's open daily from 8am-5pm (off-season Mon-Thurs 8am-noon, Fri-Sun 8am-5pm). Check on themonsal.co.uk for the latest opening times. The Monsal also includes the Stables Bar and eight welcoming bedrooms, bringing together everything you need to drink, dine and stay in the heart of the Peaks. **Ali Plowright**

Tread Softly Learns About Church Upkeep and Gravestones



Recently we welcomed Sam Barton, the new Derbyshire Dales Health Walks Co-ordinator, on our walk. We had such a large group that we were able to split into two, so that the more adventurous and speedy could 'off-road' to the trail, while the rest of us enjoyed a quiet saunter around our sunny village. We even had time for a sit and a natter on the Rec bench. Despite the chilly wind, we relaxed there visualising warmer days ahead, games of cricket in the warm evenings over many past summers, and stories of the fun had at last year's LASRA day for all the family. Mike Taft (95 years young) joined us for the first time for the full walk last week and ended up washing up in the vestry after our coffee and cake! Thank you, Mike. Back in the churchyard, we found Terry, Richard and James Cox clearing debris from the church roof and guttering. This is an annual job, carried out until recently by ex-churchwardens Mike Hirst and Alan Grant. Andy Hassell from Dronfield then had an animated discussion on the differences in gravestone inscriptions with Richard Cox, and Terry Cox then pointed out those of his great-grandparents, William and Sarah Taylor.



Join us any Wednesday leaving the lychgate prompt at 10am, returning for coffee and cake in the church by about 11.30am. Please dress warmly with stout boots and wet weather gear, and a drink and hat if hot, as we walk in all weathers, which can change during the walk. We can find ourselves often off-road across muddy fields. Friendly dogs on short leads are always welcome.

Alison Waltho

Farewell, So Long, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye!



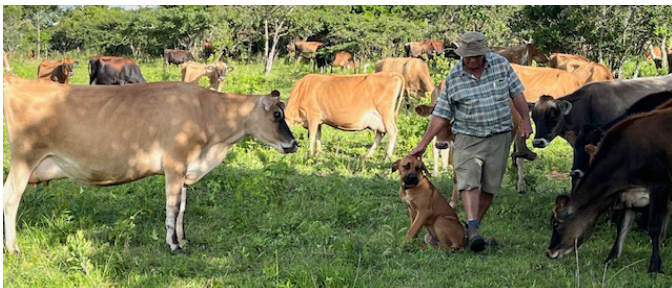
On Thursday 5th March, the Management Committee of *Under the Edge* had a farewell drink with Richard and Sue Carter at the White Lion. They were presented with a bottle of wine and a primrose accompanied by a small watering can – to ensure its tender care in their new home in Norfolk. Richard was also given several copies of a specially printed edition of *Under the Edge* that contained all of his contributions during the six years he was Treasurer, both on farming



life in Tanzania as well as his interregnum parish letters.

Then on 15th March, their last Sunday in the village, Frank Hammond thanked Richard, as outgoing Churchwarden, and his wife Sue for their joint contributions to church and community, which will be much missed. Frank then presented them with a gift made by Jane Littlefield to remind them of their happy twenty-plus years in Longstone, where they had once hoped to live out their days.

I am a Cow and I Live on a Farm



This was originally composed for the Harvest and Pet Service in St Giles, led by Father Lionel Atherton on 4th October 2024:

I am a cow and I live on a farm
The fields are green and everywhere calm.
'The man in the hat'* says we make the best cream,
I don't know of that, I just sit here and dream.
But twice every day we're off on a walk
Which I do not mind, as we girls get to talk.
And at the end of the walk, we get some good feed
He calls it Lucerne but it's really just weed.
We hustle and jostle to get the best place
To find the most feed - it's quite a big race.
But then we line up, as it's nearly our turn,
'The man in the hat' has his money to earn.
Up I step to a hard concrete stall
Being careful and slow to make sure I don't fall.
The gate clanks shut but there's supplement powder
Wonderful food - but the noise, it gets louder.
It tickles a lot when my udder is washed
But I just relax though I am a bit squashed.
The noise gets louder as the pumping is started
It pulls on my teats - from my milk, I am parted.
It's sucked along pipes with slurping and clicks
And into the cool tank with others they mix.
Soon it's all over and my udder is dry

The gate clanks again and I'm off with a sigh.
Back to a new field for the rest of the day
Eat, sleep and dream and perhaps a short play.
But as the sun sets, we're all back again
The walk and the talk - it's a bit of a pain.
But come many months we don't go anymore
Just stay in the field, this is really no chore.
We're joined in our paddock by Michael the bull
Who wanders around - of himself he's so full.
Then he jumps around and gets very frisky
He's rough and he leaps - he's been on the whisky!
Soon I become uncomfortably fat!
"You're looking good", says 'the man in the hat'.
And then he talks about the animal cycle
But if you ask me - I think it's that Michael.
It's happening again, I'm going to calve
They feed me up well, so I will not starve.
'The man in the hat' helps me with a pull
Is he happy or sad - a heifer or bull.
If it's a boy, then he'll go and I'll weep
But a girl is ok and I'll get her to keep.
But not for that long, as it's back to the dairy
I think I have learned - of Michael I'm wary.
It's not a bad life on my farm in the hills
Co's 'the man in the hat' keeps us free of all ills.
I can see to the river and the sun in the west
It's this time of year that I like the best.
The rain has now stopped and we're free of the mud
The sprinkler pumps on and I chew the cud.
I'm looking my best - just look at my photo
I'm a cow with my dreams on a farm called Ndoto†.

Richard Carter

* The 'man in the hat' is my son-in-law Hartmut.

† Ndoto means 'dream' or 'nightmare' in Swahili.



At our last meeting, Chris Unsworth, whose mother was a member of Longstone WI for many years, spoke about The 'Herring Girls'. Many girls travelled from remote Scottish communities, on a specially commissioned train, to coastal towns where the herring fleet was based. The girls worked long hours in the open air, gutting and packing the fish, in salt in barrels which held 1,000 fish. Although the herring fleet dwindled dramatically, so less need for the girls, the practise continued into the 1960s. Chris's grandmother joined the Herring Girls when she was 15.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when Mandy Coates of Bakewell Museum will talk to us. Zoe McGregor and Siobhan Gallagher will provide teas, and Aileen Glossop the Mystery Parcel. The competition is 'a treasured item'. Visitors are always welcome – contact me on **07876 481946** for further details. **Zoe McGregor**

Village Shop Does Catering Too!

Heather and Will have many strings to their bows, but did you know that they can cater for large-scale events? You'll no doubt have seen them at the LASRA days and Little Longstone



Show, grilling burgers and pulling pints, but they can also handle large receptions.

At the recent Peak Music Society Connaught Brass concert, Heather catered for the audience of 150, treating them to a great selection of canapés after the performance to go with their prosecco, including a variety of quiches, pork pies, hot sausages, lemon drizzle cakes and chocolate brownies. There were even delicious gluten-free versions of the quiches and cakes.

So, if you've got an event coming up, go in and chat to Heather about what she can provide – she's full of ideas if you want something a bit more sophisticated!

Longstone Open Gardens



This will take place on the first weekend of Longstone Week, 11th-12th July. Gardens will be open from 11am-5pm on Saturday, and 1-5pm on Sunday.

Are you prepared to open your garden, ideally for both days? One day is also fine, if that is all that is possible for you. No garden is too big or too small – people come out on a trip looking for plants and ideas, they do not expect perfection! If you would be happy to open your garden, please let me know on **07808 539464** or at j.glencross@btinternet.com – you will be most welcome.

Joyce Glencross

All Change at the White Lion



The White Lion is now under new management, after Buster and Pauline had to leave without much notice, due to unexpected circumstances.

Anthony James, who had been in charge of the kitchen, held the fort for a few weeks, before he landed a job in Switzerland. His business partner, James Maloney, from TKO Chefs Recruitment, is now managing it for Ignition Pub Management, until Robinsons find a new tenant.

It's the same good grub and ale as before, but watch this space, as Jamie wants to make the White Lion back into a real community pub again, and he's got plenty of ideas, such as a Burger and Pint for £20 on Thursdays.



Good Food, Good Drinks
and a Warm Welcome
from Jamie

New exciting menu

Food 12-8.30pm Thurs-Sat, 12-5pm Sunday
Rear Beer Garden & Car Park
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Stars of the Jazz World



Following on from the tremendous success of the recent afternoon concert featuring Connaught Brass (see review below by Richard Gosney), Peak Music returns to its evening slot for the final event of the 2025/26 season.

Appearing at the Cavendish Hall, Edensor, will be renowned vocalist Jacqui Dankworth, the daughter of jazz legends John Dankworth and Cleo Lane, accompanied by pianist and composer Charlie Wood.

Like her parents, Jacqui is best known as a jazz performer, but she draws on a wide range of genres, including folk, soul,

blues and classical. Indeed, a recent project was a recording with the famous Brodsky string quartet. The Peak Music audience on 16th April will be treated to a programme with something for everyone.

Charlie Wood, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, was raised on blues and R&B music, but has also become accomplished as a singer/songwriter and keyboardist with an incredibly varied scope. His long-standing residency at the King's Palace in Memphis attracted impromptu sit-ins from the likes of Georgie Fame and B.B.King.

Peak Music's current season has been one of its most successful in recent years and its policy of bringing top-class performers to the Peak District has resulted in the highest level of membership for a considerable time.

Non-members can obtain tickets for the concert, which begins at 7.30pm, via the Society's website peakmusicsociety.org.uk. Tickets cost £35 (£10 for those in full-time education). **Maurice Unwin**



Brass-tastic blast from the Connaught!

As a brass player, it's always pleasing when Peak Music Society provides an opportunity to showcase this medium, and so I was looking forward to hearing Connaught Brass perform at the latest concert in the Societies Spring season.

With two Trumpeters, playing an assortment of instruments, including a Flugel Horn, a French Horn, Trombone and Tuba, you would be forgiven for thinking a full concert might be a little 'brassy', but we heard an impressive array of delicate textures, colourful dynamic range and virtuoso technique from this talented young band.

From the upper register of the Piccolo Trumpet in Rameau's Dardanus to the organ-like pedals from the Tuba in Bach's Toccata, each of the ensemble are clearly highly proficient exponents, fully in command of their respective

instruments. And with a program that took us from Handel to Bernstein, they showed remarkable stamina to be able to return to the stage for a sumptuous encore of Gershwin's Someone to Watch Over Me, a wonderful afternoon's entertainment. **Richard Gosney**



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Calling all Females and Juniors who want to Play Cricket

As regular readers of *Under The Edge* will be aware, Great Longstone Cricket Club (GLCC) enjoyed a successful 2025 season after re-forming the club following a dormant period following Covid.

For our playing focus, we concentrated on playing friendly fixtures with local clubs, and although the matches were friendly, they were played in a competitive spirit and GLCC triumphed in half of the dozen or so fixtures we completed. In 2026, there will be around 16 friendly matches scheduled to be played, by the GLCC adult team, with 9 of these games played on the Rec and the balance being away fixtures. In addition, Buxton CC and Sheffield University Staff will play up to 20 games on Saturday afternoons on the Rec, which will bring additional funds to LASRA.

Our development focus was on establishing the English Cricket Board (ECB) programmes for under 8 year olds (All Stars) and under 11 year olds (Dynamos). You might have seen around 40 youngsters thoroughly enjoying themselves on the Rec between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday mornings last May, June and early July. We have received approval from the ECB to run the programmes again in 2026, and will do so on Saturday mornings once more. Any parents wishing to help out will be most welcome – please email Martin Pinder at marnevpin@gmail.com.

We don't intend to rest on our laurels over the development of the Club. We will focus on two areas in 2026. The first aim is to create a female section of GLCC, playing either softball or hardball fixtures, or both, as we attract and train women to the club. No previous experience is necessary. We aim to make these sessions fun, so ladies come and give it a go. The Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF) organise women's cricket festivals throughout the summer, at which softball matches are organised as a pathway to eventually playing 11-a-side hardball competitive matches in organised leagues. We are delighted that former PE teacher, Wendy Hammond, has already started to sound out her contacts to encourage women and girls to consider taking up the sport, and to play and train at GLCC. If you would like to get to know more about

the opportunity to learn about cricket, and train to be able to play here in Great Longstone, please contact Wendy on whammond21@googlemail.com.

Our second focus will be to establish an under-13 side as part of our junior section of GLCC. We have been assisted by Lady Manners School, who have sent out information to all of their year 7 and 8 pupils, making them aware of the opportunity for their children to learn to play cricket, and indeed to form an under-13 team at GLCC. We are seeking boys and girls who want to take this opportunity to play cricket, so if you are interested please email Martin Pinder, the Youth Development Officer at GLCC, at marnevpin@gmail.com.

To help get both of the above initiatives going, GLCC has hired the Lady Manners Sports Hall on Thursday 26 March and Monday 30 March, to run net practice and general cricketing skills practice. Each session will start straight after the end of the school day and run until 5.30pm. We have arranged for a coach to lead the sessions, who we are delighted is Nick Gaywood. Nick is just back from representing England over-60s in India, and he is a very experienced and well-respected coach. If you can't get to the beginning of the sessions, please feel free to drop in at anytime before 5.30pm, and we will endeavour to make sure that you can be involved for at least part of the session. Please let Martin Pinder know if you are planning to attend these open sessions, on the email above.

If people can't make the indoor sessions noted above, then there will be outdoor sessions at Great Longstone on the Recreation Ground when the days get longer and hopefully weather gets better in April. We look forward to meeting all newcomers to the club whatever their experience, or lack of it!

Correction to last month's article: Mike Meurer's (Chairman of LASRA) email is info@lasra.uk, not info@lasra.co.uk as published.

Martin Pinder

Local Homes for Local People

People living in the Longstone area need affordable housing. Some are adults living with parents. Some are young families with children attending Longstone school, or want to move to be closer to their family here. Some are older adults who need level-access accommodation or need to downsize or need support.

People are in need if they are currently living in unsuitable accommodation and can't afford to buy or rent on the open market. That summary was the outcome of the Local Housing Needs Survey conducted by Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC).

Most of them can not afford a market rent, so this would need to be affordable. A small number would consider affordable housing for sale, but there isn't any in the Longstone area. These are people already living in our own villages.

That survey means that DDDC will support a small amount of new affordable housing in Longstone and we should support this too. Our own housing survey as part of the Village Plan showed good support – 63% of respondents are in favour of affordable housing development.

Establishing the need and establishing support are only the beginning of the process of building new affordable homes. Our first step is to find a partner to assist the process, probably a Housing Association or a developer. DDDC will support a scheme of four houses and three bungalows for affordable rent and two houses for affordable sale based on their survey.

This will require subsidy of some form, either by a reduced land price or less likely by government grant. Even though these will be subsidised, they would need to meet the space and building requirements of the affordable housing regulator and the Peak Park. So they would be in sympathy with the village character and built to last, as well as meeting eco standards. This ensures the quality of these homes.

Local people need affordable homes and these homes need to meet the regulator's standards and be in harmony with the village character. New homes will keep Longstone and its schools, pubs, shop and businesses thriving, so let's support this as best we can.

Frank Hammond,
Chairman Longstone Village Planning Group

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Taster Sessions
Monday 13th April 10.30 - 12.30
Saturday 18th April 2 - 4pm

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MUGA Thanks!



I just wanted to express my thanks, and congratulate the people who were instrumental in setting up the MUGA in the village. It was a godsend for us this half-term, especially when trying to entertain our lively grandchildren in wet and very muddy conditions! We spent hours of fun playing football, pickle ball and a variation on basketball. As my daughter commented, 'Who needs Center Parcs!' We were wondering if there might be any way a lower basketball net could be incorporated for younger children? We have a folding version.

Sue Walker

Longstone Ladies Outing to Hopton Hall



It was a cold, wet day, with the threat of rain or even snow, when a group of Longstone Ladies set out to go to Hopton Hall to see the snowdrops. The long journey proved to be worthwhile. The rain held off and the snowdrops glowed against the wet, brown leaves which had fallen last autumn. The whole garden was rather lovely as it struggled to shrug off winter, with a few other early flowers raising their heads tentatively - primroses, hellebores and pulmonaria among them. Tall brown bullrushes on the margins of the lake and clipped box and yew in the rose garden gave the whole garden a stark winter beauty.

At lunchtime we adjourned to the excellent Mainsail restaurant at Carsington Water, where we dined overlooking the steel grey waters of the reservoir.

Later in the afternoon, it poured with rain but we didn't care. We were safely home and dry by that time.

Diana Watson



Bethan Woolvin Visits Longstone School for World Book Week

It was Friday Morning and I noticed that Lorraine was ringing, "It's World Book Week, and World Book Day on Thursday at School, Ali", Lorraine shared down the phone. "Can you ring Mr Knight and see if you can go to School on Monday?" I checked my diary, and as long as I could go in late morning I could do that. Anyway, it sounded like a good opportunity to see Mr Knight, Great Longstone School's Headmaster, as UTE were hoping to find out what was happening at school and share the stories in our pages. Lorraine shared that FOLS had agreed to fund a local author to go into school to carry out some workshops with the children.



The author, Bethan Woolvin, lives in Sheffield. She has published some fairy stories, ones that a lot of us have grown up with, but with a twist, and illustrated them beautifully. Lorraine told me she had seen and heard Bethan telling her tales to children at Chatsworth, and thought Bethan would be a wonderful person to bring to school in World Book Week.

So I rang Mr Knight, who was delighted to share his excitement about the day. He arranged for me to go in to school late morning on the Monday to see the children in Bethan's workshop, and then to spend some time with her at lunchtime. I was also excited, having looked at Bethan's books online – she sounded such an interesting young woman. The theme of World Book Day was fairy stories, and the children are encouraged to dress up. The work that the children achieved during the week would then be on show for parents to see on Friday.

Monday arrived and I walked into school at 11.30. The workshop was in full swing with year 5/6. The children were all busy drawing pictures that represented the next piece of the story of Robin Hood. Bethan had set them the task of creating their story, without words, which some were clearly embracing and others finding challenging, but all of them were engaged and interested. I watched as they laughed and drew, creating amazing pictures and enjoying the opportunity to share the details with me, as I walked around and asked them questions. Some went up to the front of the class and shared their version of 'what happened next' with the rest of the class. I was impressed by their confidence and their ability to translate their pictures into words.

The previous class had made collages to represent their pieces of the story, and we went to have a look at those too. Again, they were superb and the activity had clearly been enjoyed by the children. It reminded me just how important it is to encourage children to be creative, and to enliven their imagination. It didn't happen much in my school days and was wonderful to see it in action in Great Longstone School now.

The author and workshop leader, Bethan Woolvin, lived

in Essex as a child, and went to Cambridge School of Art, where she graduated with a First Class Degree in her passion, Illustration. Her partner lived in Sheffield, so that is where they set up home. She loves living there and being able to access the Peak District within minutes.

When Bethan was at University, she thought she wanted to illustrate magazines, but then she did a creative writing course and was challenged each week to write new stories. She so loved it and realised how much she enjoyed writing. Putting writing together with her love of illustration and telling stories through pictures was an outlet for her enthusiasm and creativity.

The first book she ever made was a submission to a children's book competition, and she chose to consider fairy tales. Because she only had six weeks to complete it and didn't have the time to write and illustrate a book, she based her story on an existing tale. She loved the story, but also realised that her younger self had thoughts about that particular story and wanted more from it, so she set about rewriting it. Her aim has always been to show female characters in a strong and empowered way, and all of her books feature strong, smart girls.

Bethan finished University in 2015 and she had been working on the book at the same time as her degree. Finding time for both her passions was challenging and demanding. Once finished, her fractured fairy tale, *Little Red*, was published in 2016, and was named New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book.

It also won the MacMillan book prize. She submitted the book for the prize in the hope she would obtain some feedback, never expecting it to be chosen. Understandably, she was thrilled and surprised. *Little Red* launched her career and she has enjoyed every moment from that day forward. She particularly enjoys her 'school and library project days', which she has been doing for six years, and loves stimulating the children to dig down deep into their creative minds to find their stories in the same way she did (and still does). She feels she's an illustrator first and a writer second.

Bethan wasn't expecting so much success from *Little Red* – she felt incredibly lucky to not only have the book published, but to also win the awards. This year is its 10th birthday and it has been published around the world and reproduced in many languages. She now has 14 books published – some of those are hers and some are books that she has illustrated for other authors.

Great Longstone School felt very grateful for Bethan's contribution to their World Book Week and look forward to many more exciting days for the children.

Ali Plowright



Alive and Buzzing!



Spot the Queen!

All five Great Longstone beehives have survived the winter against the odds! Climate change is bringing ever more challenges to beekeeping, like so many crafts and livelihoods closely connected to the changing seasons and weather.

Bees have always defied text books and done their own thing. That's just part of the fascination of beekeeping. These days, however, the bees seem confused and struggling.

I am normally very lucky if I get a little honey off in June. I expect my main honey crop in August and September. Last year, I had my earliest honey crop in all my 20 years of beekeeping, in May, and it was abundant!

The trees had no rain all the time they woke up from winter dormancy. The sap rose, they flowered, grew leaves and made their spring growth with nothing from the Heavens to drink. No rain from March to late May. When trees are under a lot of stress, they often produce abundant flowers and fruit, hoping their offspring survive, even if they perish. The abundant flowers, and heat to make their nectar rise, were perfect foraging conditions for honey bees. The joy of such a great early harvest for me went hand in hand with concern for our lovely trees.

It then turned very cold and wet. Many summer flowering plants didn't even bother trying to flower until autumn. Even if they flowered, bees struggle dodging raindrops almost as big as them. Bees don't function well in cold conditions. Pollen needs sun and warmth to rise and be available as bee forage in any quantity.

My fears were confirmed in late summer. Hive inspections revealed no second honey crop. No winter stores for the bees. Luckily I had left the early crop on one of my hives. I split that between the others, and they had enough to overwinter. I don't feed my bees sugar – it's like bringing kids up on sweets. It contains none of the vital nutrient needs for health, and I don't want it to taint my honey.

2025 will also go down in my beekeeping records as 'the

year of the wasp'. I don't remember ever having so many! I don't kill creatures for pleasure or comfort, but sometimes I have to choose who my friends are, when I am working closely with nature. It takes two bees to kill one wasp – I lost a new colony to wasps before it had a chance to build up, and my lovely, gentle, strong one was severely weakened, despite a great start and my attempts to help. When I was cleaning hive equipment and honey harvesting, everything, including my hands and the ground, was covered with wasps!

I had words with the wasps, as I put my jam and water traps out, 'You don't have to go in and die, the choice is yours... I would much rather you just leave us bee and let us get on with our lives...' Hundreds of wasps dived in and perished. Sorry wasps – I hope you come back with more respect for personal space, maybe as bees in your next life?!

The unpredictable weather is also affecting re-queening of honey-bee colonies. The queen only mates once in her life. She chews her way out of her beeswax cell and goes on a 'mating flight', and should return with several years worth of eggs to lay. Since a summer working bee only lives for about six weeks, the colony's future depends on their own fertile queen. If her mating flight is unsuccessful, she can be infertile, or have a limited supply of eggs and the colony will fail. The worker bees of a colony can decide to re-queen if their queen is failing, but they need at least one fertile egg. They build a queen cell and line it with royal jelly. The process takes at least three weeks, and again a successful mating flight relies on good weather at the right time.

I usually manage to get new queens in at least some of my hives each year, but last year none succeeded. That will be fine as a one off, maybe even for two years, but if it proves a pattern, it will be a major concern for me. I may have to perfect queen-rearing methods that I have not needed up to now.

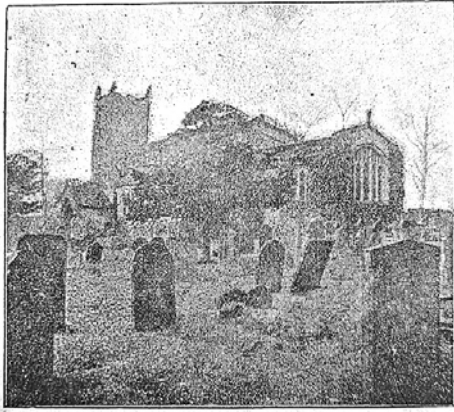
So here's to another beekeeping year, with our lovely Great Longstone bees! I know for sure there will be plenty of surprises, fascinations, puzzles and excitements. I pray I can put to bed healthy colonies come autumn, and that there may be some spare honey for us humans. We shall see – whatever will bee will bee...



Swarm collecting is one of my all time favourite beekeeping events, and I have plenty of good homes waiting for stray colonies! Bees mostly swarm from April until July. If you are lucky enough to experience a swarm, please stay calm, cover your hair and call me as soon as you can on **07702 209869**. Remember, bees are non-aggressive when they swarm. It's hard to sting with a belly full of nectar, and they have no hive to protect.

Anna Dutch

LONGSTONE
PARISH
MAGAZINE.



OCTOBER, 1904.

PRICE THREE-HALFPENCE.

BAKEWELL:
Printed at the "High Peak News" Offices.

Longstone Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1904.

It is hoped to have a Sale of Work in December for the purpose of helping some objects connected with the Parish. Contributions are earnestly solicited.

On Wakes Sunday the Services at Longstone and at Wardlow were well attended, the special preacher at Longstone being the Vicar of Winster, Rev. W. Nixon; and at Wardlow, the Curate of Baslow, The Rev. J. Ducker, preacher in the afternoon, the evening service being taken by Mr. Spanton.

The Churches were beautifully adorned with flowers. Mr. C. Carson most kindly helped, as usual, by sending moss, &c., and Thornbridge Hall supplied the hothouse grapes and plants. Our thanks are due to those farmers who supplied the corn, and to those who sent flowers and vegetables, of which a greater supply was desirable. The Anthems, beautiful and appropriate for the occasion, were excellently rendered.

The Annual Choir Trip took place on September 3rd, when a most enjoyable day was spent at Blackpool. Though the start was made in pouring rain, like last year, a beautiful day followed. Nearly all the varied wonders of Blackpool were visited during the day and the rough sea did not deter the boys from a long spell of paddling, sailing however was wisely avoided! The sunset on the sea was beautiful, but had to be left for the evening circus performance, for which there was some difficulty in getting seats. Longstone Station was reached safely at 2.15 a.m., minus one coat only.

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Simon Headington

From the Archives – Shock and Horror at Proposed Change to Post Office Hours

From the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 1908:

A letter had been received from the Postmaster at Bakewell stating that it was proposed to reduce the hours of attendance at all the Country Suboffices and he wished to know if the Parish Council had any objection to Gt. Longstone Post Office being altered from '7.0 a.m. to 8 p.m.' to '8 a.m. to 7 p.m.'

It was proposed by Mr Skidmore & seconded by Mr Bridge that the Clerk reply saying that in view of the present late delivery of letters & as there are a number of visitors come to stay in the village during the summer months who wish to have their letters previous to going away by an early train and also for any telegraphic communication the Parish Council consider that it would be very inconvenient if the hours of attendance are in any way reduced & trust they may remain unaltered.

Historical Note:

The telegraph service first came to Great Longstone in 1899, when the Parish Council agreed to guarantee the Post Office a minimum income so that the facility could be moved from Longstone Station to the village Post Office. This meant that if too few telegrams were sent, the Council would make up the shortfall. In practice, the service proved popular: after a small deficit in 1901, the Postmaster General reported in 1902 that the revenue from telegrams was sufficient to cover the guarantee. By the time of this 1908 minute, the telegraph office had been financially self-supporting for several years, and the Council's concern had shifted from funding the service to ensuring that the Post Office remained open long enough for villagers and visitors to send or receive urgent telegrams.

Simon Headington

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What's On at The Monsal

Easter opening times (all week) are Canteen 8am-5pm, Stables Noon-10pm



Editor Wins Award



One of UTE's editors, Michael Beale, recently won an award for technical innovation from his firm's parent company, Pan Macmillan. He was flown to the States, all expenses paid, to present his invention to a wider audience in San Francisco. He's pictured here at the Mothering Sunday service with his proud mother, Jane.

Lady Lindy Keeps Things Smooth at Quackers!



On a glorious Saturday in March, Lady Lindy was keeping everyone at Quackers café relaxed and chilled with her 'Smooth Set', with listeners joining in with numbers like *Que Sera Sera*, while Thornbridge Estate's Makers Market was in full swing outside. The Monsal Trail was very busy, with part of the Grindleford Gallop taking place on it, but she captured the hearts of the Sheffield Cycling Tourist Club, who lingered on enjoying the ambience before reluctantly getting back in the saddle.

Lady Lindy, from Dronfield, has sung since she was five. She has been performing with groups and bands for the last 15 years, specialising in vintage numbers from the 30s, 40s and 50s, but has now branched out into solo performances. You can contact her on **07903 051330** or **ladylindysings@gmail.com**.

Rejoice – It's Mothering Sunday!



Laetare Sunday, more commonly known by Anglicans as Mothering Sunday, marks the halfway point of Lent. Its name comes from the introit of the day, 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem' (*Isaiah 66:10*). Until the Americans commercialised it as 'Mothers' Day', 'Mothering Sunday' was just a day when you were supposed to visit your 'mother' church, the one where you were baptised. It is a day of celebration, halfway through the austerity of Lent, also known as the 'Sunday of the Five Loaves' after the miracle of Loaves and Fishes. Yet another name for it is Rose Sunday, as the priest can wear rose-coloured vestments, rather than violet (or in St Giles' case blue, thanks to John Tarn), as for the rest of Lent.



Clive Thrower's wife, Joy, had specially made him a rose-coloured stole to wear for the service. Simnel cake, now more commonly associated with Easter, was originally baked for Laetare (or Simnel) Sunday. Alison Waltho created the amazing cake on the left for the post-service refreshments. The eleven marzipan balls represent the 12 disciples, less Judas Iscariot. 'Simnel' comes from the same root as semolina, and means 'made with the finest flour'.

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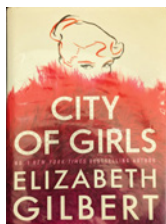
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Sorrow & Bliss by Meg Mason. Everyone tells Martha Friel she is clever and beautiful, a brilliant writer who has been loved every day of her adult life by one man, her husband Patrick. A gift, her mother once said, not everybody gets. So why is everything broken? Why is Martha, on the edge of 40, friendless, practically jobless and so often sad? And why did Patrick decide to leave? Maybe she is just too sensitive, someone who finds it harder to be alive than most people. Or maybe there is something wrong with her. Something that broke when a little bomb went off in her brain at 17, and left her changed in a way that no doctor or therapist has ever been able to explain. Forced to return to her childhood home to live with her dysfunctional, bohemian parents, Martha has one last chance to find out whether a life is ever too broken to fix – or whether, maybe, by starting over, she will get to write a better ending for herself.

Sorrow and Bliss is a novel with a huge heart, anchored by a main character so vivid and three-dimensional she lingers long after the final page. By focusing on Martha's tumultuous journey rather than defining her by her illness, the book becomes even more powerful. It's both deeply sad and unexpectedly funny. Honest, profound, and thoroughly modern, it's the kind of novel that leaves the reader subtly changed. **Rating 4/5**



City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert. Nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris arrives in New York City in the summer of 1940 with nothing but a sewing machine and a heretofore unindulged taste for adventure. Finding employment as seamstress at the Lily Playhouse, a charmingly down-at-heel Manhattan revue, Vivian quickly becomes the toast of the showgirls, transforming the tat only fit for the cheap seats

into creations for goddesses. Adventure and opportunity blossom on every corner of this strange wartime city of girls, and Vivian and her girlfriends mean to down New York to its last drop. But there are hard lessons to be learned, and bitterly regrettable mistakes to be made. Vivian learns that to live the life she wants, she must live many lives, ceaselessly and ingeniously making them new.

I loved the story of young Vivian and her pursuit of excitement and happiness. She's a wonderful narrator: funny, sharp, and delightfully sarcastic. Gilbert's writing flows so effortlessly that I picked up the book intending to just dip in... and suddenly realised I'd read a third without even noticing! I wholeheartedly recommend this story—it's filled with a vibrant cast of characters, and the atmosphere is incredible. I absolutely loved it. **Rating 5/5**



The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley by Sean Lusk. Leadenhall Street, London, 1754. Raised amongst the cogs and springs of his father's workshop, Zachary has grown up surrounded by strange and enchanting clockwork automata. He is a happy child, beloved by his father Abel and the workmen who help bring his father's creations to life.

He also has an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, Zachary can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets. But then a near-fatal accident will take him away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey to Constantinople that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened.

This is one of those books that completely absorbs you—you start to feel as though you know the characters personally. I loved their inner strength and varied personalities. They are, without a doubt, the best part of the novel. The writing is beautiful, and the world-building is fantastic; it's hard to believe this is the author's first book. **Rating 4/5**

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Longstone Local History Group

On 17th March, Peter Donaldson spoke about the development and eventual demise of our 'local' railway, constructed by the Midland Railway during the latter half of the nineteenth century as a main line, linking Derby and the South with Manchester and the North. Surviving for barely a century, the line was closed as a through route in 1968. Since then, part has been resurrected as a heritage line, Peak Rail, while the Monsal Trail has been created on the former track bed between Bakewell and Blackwell Mill.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm, when Ian Pykett of Ashford will discuss the history of organ building.

Peter Donaldson

Die Valais Schwarznasenschafe sind im Urlaub!



Last summer, I was lucky enough to be on holiday in Switzerland, and on a visit to Zermatt had the opportunity to see Valais sheep (*UTE March 2025*) in their natural habitat, since this is their homeland.

The day started by taking the Gornergrat funicular railway up to the top of the Gornergrat – at 3089m the view was amazing of the Matterhorn, 28 other peaks of over 4000m and the Gorner glacier, the second largest in the Swiss Alps.

On the way down, it was suggested that one could get off at Riffelberg and see the famous black-nosed sheep before continuing down on foot to Zermatt, so this I did. However, I was greeted by the following photo! Enjoyed the walk back to the village though. **Jean Gledhill**



SPRING 2026 WHAT'S ON

Longstone Events and Activities Project (LEAP) subsidises events for residents of Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Hassop, Rowland, Monsal Head, Wardlow



TO BOOK: email4leap@gmail.com **BOOK ONLINE:** leap.sumupstore.com

DATE	EVENT INFORMATION	Charge
Wed 15 th Apr 10 a.m. - 12	Men's Cooking Group This Spring our workshop will be exploring the flavours of Italy. All welcome and no experience necessary!	FREE Email to book
Wed 22 nd Apr 2 p.m – 4 p.m.	Container Gardening Demonstration Andy Hanna will share his horticultural expertise to show how to create interesting planting for a variety of containers.	FREE Email to book
20 th Apr 22 nd Jun 20 th Jul	Monday Monthly Meditation Group Sophie Stephenson expertly and gently guides these monthly meditation sessions. New members are welcome. 6.45 p.m. arrival 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.	FREE
Film Club *Thu 26 th Mar 7.30 p.m.	<i>*Changed date</i> Dead of Winter Emma Thompson lights up this icy thriller as a grief-stricken widow who gets lost on the back roads of Minnesota. She soon finds herself in a desperate fight for survival as she encounters a murderous couple holding a young woman hostage.	£5 On the door
Film Club *Thu 30 th Apr 7.30 p.m.	<i>*Changed date</i> The Choral Alan Bennett's new film, directed by Nicholas Hytner, is a quiet and consistent pleasure: a deeply felt drama which subcontracts actual passion to the music of Elgar and leaves us with a heartbeat of wit, poignancy and common sense.	£5 On the door
Wed 13 th May 10 am – 4 pm	Applique Sewing Workshop with Marge Elliot	£10 Book online or email
25 th Mar 29 th Apr 27 th May	Book Swap Café - last Wednesday of every month 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Bring a couple of books to swap and join us for tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.	

April Farming Notes



It's been exciting to see lots of newt activity in one of our ponds. There are three ponds on the farm – two have been there for longer than me (they sit either side of Chertpit Lane), and the third was added more recently as part of an environmental scheme. Growing up, they have always been referred to as Mere Ponds or 'The Meres' by my parents. They fill with rainwater and connect to drinking troughs for the animals, and are extremely useful because otherwise the water would have to travel from the farm via pipelines and up the hillside, which would almost certainly lose pressure and require a pump. So I guess it's one of the benefits of frequent rain showers that the ponds remain topped up naturally. We do have some issues, such as the ponds getting low during a dry spell, but we have usually filled them up to help save the wildlife. Last summer, when the dry spell came, we used it as an opportunity to clean out one of the ponds. Over the years, lots of stones had found their way in, as well as a build up of sludge and slime. It was a good chance to get our wellies on and clear it out, and since then it has recovered,



although it doesn't look as clean and healthy as the others. We have added some weed to help add oxygen to the water, so hopefully it will continue to improve.

In terms of the newts, I am no expert, but I enjoy spending a few minutes looking for newts every now and again! I don't think we have great crested newts – I think they are smooth newts, but I would be happy to be corrected on that! Usually, we also have frogs and toads and dragon flies, plus the occasional duck visiting, so the meres are a lovely haven for wildlife and it's nice to see.



On the farm, I have been really relieved to reach the month of March. As spring approaches, the grass has started to grow, which means the cows and sheep are eating the hay up at a slower rate. It's a nice feeling to feel the change in the air – I have seen some hares boxing and chasing one another, heard the woodpecker frequently, as well as the return of the song thrush singing and the skylarks.

I'm itching to get onto the fields to do the spring jobs – chain harrowing and rolling, but it's not quite been dry enough yet.

Joanna Shimwell

Dear All,

The month of April sees the renewal of life all around us, both plant and animal, as the days get warmer and the sun shines for longer. It seems entirely appropriate that Easter coincides with all this, and helps to make Springtime such a glad season.

The Easter story is so familiar to us, in the Church, that I wonder if we sometimes forget just how mind-blowingly extraordinary an event that first Easter was.

The followers of Jesus – not just His disciples but the band of women who attended Him, and all those who had been converted during His Mission of the previous three years – were all cast down in despair, cowed and in hiding, after seeing the Man they thought was the Messiah killed on the cross and buried in a tomb. Then He

came back to them, as a real person, who talked with them and ate with them. He had defeated death itself, and demonstrated beyond all doubt – even to Thomas! – that hope was eternal. He came back as a person as real as they were, but at the same time ‘other’ and had to return soon to another place, but would send a Holy Spirit to them as confirmation of the new reality He had demonstrated.

Suddenly, a group of despairing, despondent, defeated people became a band of joyful, fervent evangelists who set about preaching the Good News and set about converting people by the thousand to become followers of Jesus. The movement grew, and spread with amazing speed, throughout the Roman world, and beyond. There can be no other explanation for this, other than what they had witnessed was real. The

world was turned upside down. Jesus had shown that death was not the end; not just for Him but for them, and for all of His followers, including us.

**Roger Truscott,
St Anne's, Over Haddon**

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.

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

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for all the latest church news*

How Do I Look?

This is a question that many of us will have asked ourselves prior to a job interview, a first date, a wedding – in fact, any number of occasions when we want to make a good impression. We may also have been asked our opinion by others at times when we feel we must choose our words with care.

There is no doubt that we live in a world currently obsessed with image. Many young people idolise celebrities to the point of imitating their style and their clothes (if they can afford to do so!). Programmes offer advice, and fashion encourages young and old alike to transform themselves to reach what they believe is a perfect image.

The story I have for you moves in a time when image was also considered important, **but** for very different reasons. For young men, to be strong and warrior-like was essential, in a world where tribes and nations were at war with one another.

Samuel, when still a young boy, was called to be a prophet – one who was in close touch with Almighty God. Samuel answered that call and his reputation grew. But the people wanted a king and, as in present times, manoeuvred events so that they got what they wanted. His name was Saul, tall handsome and a warrior. He was not however God's choice, and after many years Saul's fits of dark depression caused him to seek solace listening to the soothing music in the hands of young David, a shepherd boy.

By the time that Samuel had grown old, God called him

to go to the house of Jesse, who had seven sons, and there he would find the person who would be anointed king and **was** God's choice. So, Samuel went with a sacrificial animal to share with Jesse and his sons. The six older brothers, all tall, handsome and muscular young men came in turn to Samuel, but God told him “This is not the one”.

Finally, Samuel asked “Do you have any other sons?” “Yes”, Jesse said, “but he is only a youth who cares for the sheep”.

“Bring him here”. So, David, fresh-faced from living in the open air, and not as tall as his brothers, was brought before Samuel. “This is the one”, God told Samuel. And so he was anointed, and in the years ahead he would become king. Even though David was small, he also went on to slay the mighty giant Philistine, Goliath, with a single slingshot, felling him to the ground.

“Why did you choose him?”, Jesse asked, somewhat bewildered by the choice of his youngest son.

“You see”, Samuel told him, “Man looks at the outward appearance, whereas God looks on the heart and David has a heart for God”.

Many hundreds of years later, Jesus (sometimes known as Son of David) would also become an unlikely king, and give his own life to save us on the Cross, where he defeated death by rising triumphantly on the first Easter Day.

Pat Westwell



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

*Lent Prayers in St Giles Chancel 8.45am
Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve (not Sundays)*

2nd April – Maundy Thursday

7pm The Last Supper (St Giles)

3rd April – Good Friday

2pm Hour by the Cross (St Giles)

5th April – Easter Day

9am Eucharist (Wardlow)

10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)

4pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

12th April – Easter 2

10.30am Benefice Eucharist (St Giles)

19th April – Easter 3

10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)

6pm Benefice Evensong (Bakewell)

26th April – Easter 4

9am Morning Worship (Wardlow)

10.30am Morning Worship (St Giles)

April in the Garden

Lawns: Mow, aerate, apply spring fertiliser and scarify. Apply selective weed and moss killer. Mow frequently lowering blades to a minimum of 2cm.

Roses: Complete pruning. Feed with rose fertiliser, hoeing it into ground. Mulch beds with manure or compost.

Herbaceous plants: Lift and divide old clumps of Asters, Rudbeckias, Helianth and Monardes. Replant on well dug and manured ground. Stake and tie Delphiniums late in the month. Keep hoeing between plants.

Dahlias: Plant healthy dormant tubers towards the end of the month. Protect new shoots from frost.

Gladioli: Begin hoeing and dress with fish manure.

Chrysanthemums: Rake a general fertiliser into ground prepared for planting. Harden off outdoor plants for planting. Under glass, prepare for planting indoor varieties.

Sweet peas: Start restricting growth on cordon plants, removing tendrils and side shoots.

Trees and shrubs: Plant evergreen shrubs during showery weather. Continue planting wall shrubs. Cut Buddleias hard back. Lightly prune trees and shrubs that have flowered.

Fruit: Keep a watch out for pests on flowers and fruit. Protect wall trees and soft fruit bushes against frost while in bloom. Mulch round trees and water newly planted fruit.

Vegetables: Plant early potatoes. Sow salad crops, late-summer cauliflowers, wrinkle seeded peas and main crop carrots, globe beetroot, winter cabbage, purple sprouting and spring broccoli. If frost threatens, cover any potato foliage.

General tasks: Order seedlings such as Antirrhinums, Dahlias and tomato plants.



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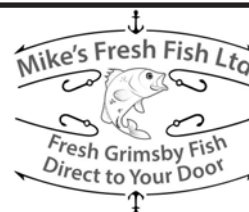


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Tom Yum Goong

The four unique ingredients to Thai cuisine are lime leaves, lemongrass, galangal and fish sauce, and this spicy prawn (goong) soup is a classic showcase for them. Twenty years ago, it would have been hard to source these fresh outside of London, but there is now an excellent supermarket in the centre of Chesterfield, *Lemon Grass Oriental Supermarket*, which has a wide selection of Asian ingredients that

150g king prawns

350ml chicken stock

4 kaffir lime leaves

1 stalk lemongrass

7cm galangal

20g straw mushrooms

2 round shallots

1 tsp chilli jam

25ml fish sauce

25ml fresh lime juice

6 cherry tomatoes

1 red chilli

5 fresh stalks coriander

are flown in twice a week from Thailand.

Thai food has the reputation of being incredibly spicy, beside which a Vindaloo seems positively mild, but it will taste just as good with a small amount of mild red chilli (as sold in the Bakewell Co-op). You can even just add it to taste individually after dishing up.

Slice the lemongrass stalk into four, and crush with the flat blade of a wide knife to release its aromatic flavour. Cut the galangal root into 2mm wide slices and tear the lime leaves in several places, removing the central stalk. Then chop the shallots in two and crush slightly with the knife blade. Chop the chilli finely and remove the stalks from the coriander leaves.

Bring the chicken stock to a boil in a pan, then simmer for five minutes with all the ingredients except the prawns and coriander. Finally, add the prawns and cook for a couple of minutes until they have turned pink. Season to taste with more lime juice and fish sauce, pour into bowls, scatter the coriander leaves on top and enjoy!



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What's On

Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesdays - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 19)
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
1st April - WI Mandy Coates talk, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 8)
3rd-4th April - Hassop Home Farm Family Easter Adventure, 10am-4pm (page 16)
11th April - Baslow Bowls Club Open Session, Baslow Sports Field 10.30am (page 11)
15th April - LEAP Men's Cooking Group, GL Village Hall 10am-12 (page 19)
16th April - Peak Music Concert, Cavendish Hall Edensor 7.30pm £35 (page 9)
21st April - LL History Group Talk Ian Pykett, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 19)
22nd April - LEAP Container Gardening, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 19)
20th April - LEAP Monthly Meditation Group, GL Village Hall, 6.45-8 pm (page 19)
29th April - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 13)
23rd April - Springtime Quiz, The Monsal Stables Bar, 8pm (page 16)
29th April - GL Annual Parish Meeting, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 5)
30th April - Film Club *The Choral*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 19) £5

Bakewell Medical Centre

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Normal Surgery Opening Times:

Mon-Fri 8am - 6.30pm

We do not close for lunch

Closed: Bank Holidays and second Wednesday afternoon of month except August and December.

Whitworth Hospital Opening Times:

A&E (Minor Injuries Unit): 8am - 8pm

X-Ray: Mon-Fri 9am - 4.30pm

For medical advice when the surgery is closed, phone 111

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Baslow Health Centre

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

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Thanks to Deborah Henley for sending in this postcard of Netherdale Farm taken from Monsal Head in the 1970s

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 22nd April

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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