

# UNDER THE EDGE

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

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

[www.undertheedge.net](http://www.undertheedge.net)



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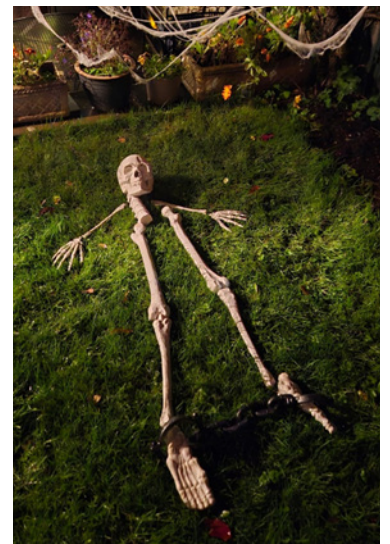
They shall Grow Not Old, as We That Are Left Grow Old



*Jim Longsdon laying Little Longstone's wreath at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November*

## Spooky Halloween hits Great Longstone

Thanks to Allen and Nicola Morris for these wacky Halloween photos



## Halloween Gig at The Stables Bar



Thanks to Ali Plowright for this photo of Indie-cision performing on 31st October

## URGENT - We REALLY do Need Fresh Blood NOW!



At UTE's recent AGM, Richard Carter, our Treasurer, announced that he was going to have to step down (*UTE November 2025*). The urgency to find a replacement has increased markedly since last month's appeal (from which we have had no response), as he and his wife Sue now face the prospect of having to move out of their home of 20 years imminently.

The role is not particularly onerous or time-consuming – to find out more, email [editor@undertheedge.net](mailto:editor@undertheedge.net), or contact Richard on **07900 980967**. You do not have to be a financial wizard as our accounting is mainly done on an income and expenditure basis, though a familiarity with spreadsheets and online banking would help. If you know of anyone who has recently retired or is looking for something new, please pass the word on and encourage them to be in touch!

## Longstone Place Names

Following the article about New Road in last month's UTE, I have found a number of references in old Parish Council records from the 1890s and 1970s to Longstone Hole Bridge.

Other names in the Parish Council Minutes from the 1890s, that have mostly disappeared, include the lower part of Moor Road being called Gilders Lane, the first part of Station Road, probably as far as Longstone Lodge, was called Mill Lane, though beyond this, once the railway had been built in the 1860s, it was known as Station Road.

Finally, at the top end of the village, in the area around the corner of Main Street and Moor Road, this was called Townshead.

**Simon Headington**

*And as if there weren't enough names for poor Longstone Hole bridge, Hugh Wright has let UTE know that his family, who donated one side of the land used to make New Road, have always known it, as shown on their maps, as Mires Bridge!*

## Longstone Records

by G.T. Wright

Leather bound, 708 pages

Good condition

*A fascinating compendium, published in 1906, from local historical documents*

Offers over £75 to

**07877 749503**

## Companion/Carer

*Are you or a loved one in need of a companion, support worker or personal assistant to help alleviate daily pressures?*

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hpcpc health & care professions council

## Housing Needs Survey for the Longstone Area



**LONGSTONE**  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

High property prices, expensive private rents and a shortage of suitable, affordable housing can make it a real challenge for people on more modest incomes to live in the Peak District National Park. For young people interested in setting up a home for the first time, older people who need to downsize, or families struggling in high-cost rented homes, the lack of affordable housing can force them to move away from their families and where they have lived most of their lives.

To address this issue, the District Council's corporate priorities include enabling new affordable homes for local people where they are needed. In working with parishes in the Longstone area and the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, we have identified growing concerns that there is an unmet housing need that should be addressed.

Before any options can be considered, we're calling on the community to help us identify the type of affordable housing required to meet the need. If you feel your housing

is unsuitable, you wish to move in the next 5 years, and feel you have a local connection to the parishes above, please tell us about your housing issues through this survey form. The survey also provides the opportunity to express your view on the provision of new affordable housing in this area even if you do not feel you are in housing need.

Residents can answer the Housing Needs Survey via a questionnaire that can be accessed online at [www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/LongstoneHNS](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/LongstoneHNS)

We also encourage anyone with a local connection to any of these parishes but living elsewhere to complete the survey.

If a level of housing need can be evidenced via the survey, the District Council, in collaboration with partners and local communities, can help to enable the development of new affordable housing for local people.

The deadline for completing the survey is 14th December.

If you have any queries, or need a hard copy of the survey, please contact Emma Holt, the District Council's Housing Needs and Research Officer, on **01629 761252** or at [emma.holt@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:emma.holt@derbyshiredales.gov.uk).

**Emma Holt**

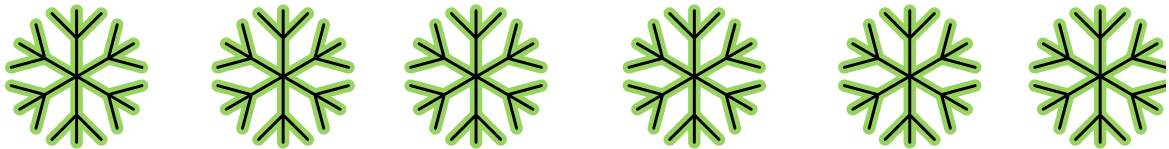
## December Gardening Notes



November began very wet and mild, but as I write this, it has got much colder in the second half of the month, so the greenhouse heater will have to provide enough heat to keep the frost out. The lilies that I mentioned last month have come into flower, albeit at the wrong time of year, but they provide a wonderful scent and a splash of colour. When they have finished flowering, I will let the stems die off before cutting them down, and hope they will provide a show next year. There's only a small amount of watering to do now with the cooler weather. The last of the hedge cutting is now done – I do get someone to trim the tops now, to save me climbing the ladder to get up there. I am a bit behind on trimming trees and shrubs, so I will be out there when the weather is suitable. I am also considering giving the grass a final trim as it has got rather long. The leaves I collected a year ago have made a wonderful compost, so I will be collecting more leaves and bagging them up and leaving them in a corner somewhere. There have been plenty of berries (*see photo*) in the garden this year, which the birds love. Having said that, I have hardly seen any blackbirds, which are normally quite common in the garden.

It's pretty quiet in the allotment at the moment. I have dug it all over, and it's fairly tidy. I am still harvesting spinach, kale and brussels – the spinach has been really good, despite the dry summer. I will check my stored potatoes to make sure there are no rotten ones, as these can soon affect the rest. They should be stored in a cool, dark and frost-free environment.

Andy Hanna

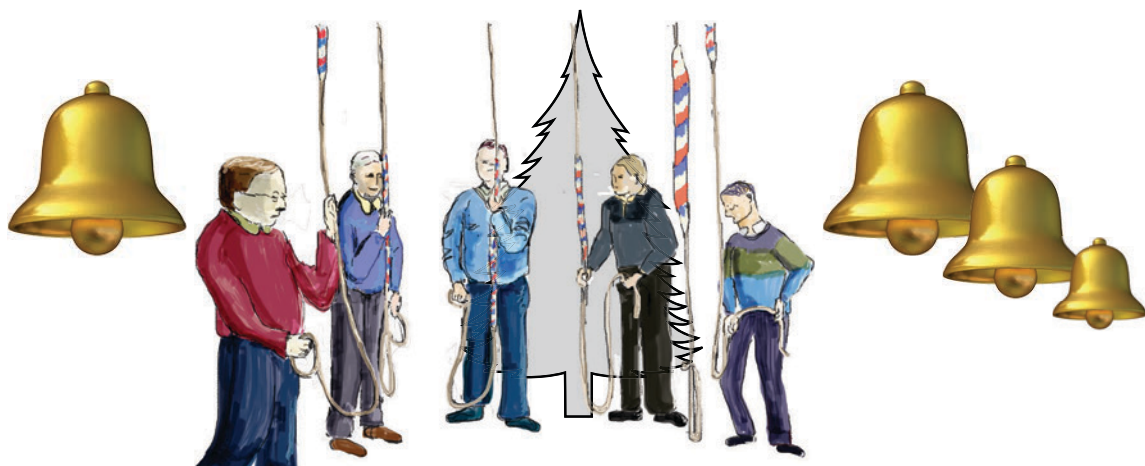


## Festive Ashford Bells

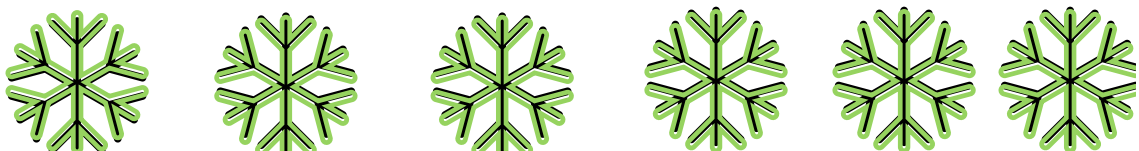
Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water



# Saturday 3 January 2026, 2-4pm



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



## The White Lion is Well and Truly Open for Business!

The White Lion is now under the new management of Buster and Pauline, who have come up with a new and exciting menu – loads of choices, Sunday specials, plus a Kid's Pick & Mix menu for only £6.95! Plus from 4th December right through to 31st, there is a special Christmas menu with all the trimmings. Running the kitchen is Joe, who has been with the White Lion for 15 years now, so you can rely on the food being as good as ever! To book a table, call **01629 640252** or email our new email address [whitelionbakewell@inglenookinns.co.uk](mailto:whitelionbakewell@inglenookinns.co.uk).

### WHITE LION MENU

**STARTERS & SMALL PLATES**

**BURRATA MOZZARELLA TOMATO SALAD** 7.95  
Pesto Dressing

**TODAY'S HOME-MADE SOUP** 6.95  
Warm bread & butter (v)

**CHICKEN LIVER & BRANDY PARFAIT** 8.25  
Caramelised red onion chutney, croutons

**VELVET HOUMOUS** 8.25  
Pitta bread dressed salad, celery

**LEMON SOURDOUGH FISH GOULIONS** 7.95  
Tartare sauce dressed leaf

**SALT & PEPPER SQUID** 9.50  
Tartare sauce mixed leaf lemon wedge

**LEAVES & LOAVES**

**B.L.T** 10.95  
bacon under lettuce, mayo

**SEARED RUMP STEAK** 12.95  
saffron (sba)

**POSH FISH FINGERS** 11.95  
Chips & mushy peas (sba)

**CHEESE CHUTNEY** 7.95  
with tomato

Add some chunky chips or homemade cup of soup to any of the above 1.95

**SIDE DISHES**

**SALT & PEPPER FRIES** 4.95

**TRIPLE COOKED CHIPS** 3.95

**ONION RINGS** 3.50

**GARLIC BAGUETTE** 4.25

**DRESSED SALAD** 3.95

**HOUSE SLAW** 3.50

**SAUCES & RUBS**

**CREAMY PEPPERCORN** 3.50

**ROAST ONION GRAVY** 2.95

**BLUE CHEESE & REAL ALE** 3.50

**KIDS PICK & MIX MENU - 6.95**

**PROTEIN**  
SO YOU CAN BE BIG AND STRONG

**HOMEMADE FISH FINGERS**

**CHICKEN STRIPS**

**MOZZARELLA STICKS**

**CARBS**  
SO YOU CAN HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY

**FRIES**

**ONION RINGS**

**GARLIC BREAD**

**VEGGIES**  
SO YOU CAN GROW UP HEALTHY

**PEAS**

**CORN**

**SALAD**

**COELSLAW**

**DESSERTS**

**TWO SCOOPS OF ICE CREAM** 3.50

**MINI CHOCOLATE BROWNIE** 3.50

**MAJOR COURSES**

**SIGNATURE FISH & CHIPS** 17.95  
Mushy peas with tartar sauce

**BRAISED BEEF SHIN** 18.95  
Horseradish, mash & vegetables

**8 OZ RUMP** 21.95  
Dressed salad & triple-cooked chips

**10 OZ GAMMON** 16.95  
Dressed salad & triple-cooked chips

**CAULIFLOWER "STEAK"** 15.95  
Dressed salad & triple-cooked chips

**TAGLIATELLE PASTA** 15.95  
Choose between chicken, fish & veggie

**BEEF SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS** 15.95  
GF burger bun, salad & chips

**STEAK & ALE PIE** 18.95  
Chunky chips, peas & gravy

**BREADED WHOLETAIL SCAMPI** 17.95  
Chips, peas & tartar

**LASAGNE AL FORNO** 17.95  
Garlic bread, dressed salad

**CRISPY-FRIED CHICKEN BREAST BURGET** 15.95  
Glazed bun, fries & house slaw

**QUACAMOLE VEGGIE KIEV** 15.95  
Vegetables & mash or chips

**THAI RED CURRY:**  
With fragrant rice

MARINATED CHICKEN 16.95  
MUSHROOM & PLANT-BASED PROTEIN 15.95  
CATCH OF THE DAY 16.95

**TOPPERS**

**MELTING CHEDDAR** 1.95

**FRIED EGG** 1.95

**DESSERTS**

**CINNAMON SWIRL CHEESECAKE** 6.95

**JAFFA ORANGE DOME** 6.95

**VEGAN NEATOLITLN SLICE (gf/ve)** 6.95

**STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING** 6.95  
Toffee sauce, choice between icecream or custard

**CRUMBLE** 6.95  
Choice between icecream or custard

**MULLED WINE POACHED PEAR** 6.95  
Choice between icecream or custard

**SUNDAYS MENU**

**SUNDAY SPECIALS**

**SUNDAY ROAST**  
Choices: Roast Turkey, Beef, Pork

1 MEAT 16.95  
2 MEATS 19.95  
3 MEATS 23.95

**VEGAN & VEGGIE ROAST** 16.95

**STEAK & ALE PIE** 18.95

**FISH & CHIPS** 16.95  
With mushy peas

All roasts are served with a choice of roast potatoes or mash & seasonal vegetables

**A WARM WELCOME**

WE'RE HERE TO OFFER GOOD FOOD, GOOD DRINKS AND A WARM WELCOME.

WHETHER YOU ARE STOPPING BY FOR A BITE TO EAT, A DRINK WITH FRIENDS OR MARKING A SPECIAL MOMENT, WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT WITH US

**THE WHITE LION, GREAT LONGSTONE**

**FOOD SERVICES**

MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY / NO FOOD

THURSDAY / 12-3 & 5-8.30

FRIDAY & SATURDAY / 12-4 & 5-8.30

SUNDAY / 12-5

MAIN STREET | GREAT LONGSTONE | BAKEWELL | DE45 1TA  
WHITELIONBAKEWELL@INGLENOOKINNS.CO.UK  
01629 640252 @WHITELIONGREATLONGSTONE

**A LITTLE NOTE FOR OUR GUESTS**

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TALK TO US ABOUT BOOKING A TABLE, HOSTING YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION HERE OR MAYBE YOU HAVE FOOD ALLERGIES?

BE SURE TO LET US KNOW AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR YOU



## WHITE LION

### CHRISTMAS MENU

Celebrating Christmas Through  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
Complimentary Canapés and a Glass of Prosecco on Arrival

---

**FESTIVE STARTERS**

Today's Homemade Soup  
Warm bread & butter

Prawn & Crab Cocktail  
Classic Marie Rose sauce, crisp lettuce, lemon

Pressed Ham Hock Terrine  
Plum & apple chutney, cranberry & raisin toast

**YULETIDE MAIN COURSES**

Classic Roast Turkey  
with Every Imaginable Trimming

Root Vegetable Wellington  
with Seasonal Accompaniments (ve)

**SANTAS SWEET TREAT**

A palate-teasing selection of mini cakes

**CHRISTMASSY DESSERTS**

Christmas Pudding  
Brandy sauce

Sticky Toffee Pudding Cheesecake  
Chocolate sauce

Fruit Crumble  
Custard or ice cream

**2 COURSES - £29.95 // 3 COURSES - £34.95**  
Add Coffee and a Mince Pie for only £3 extra



## The White Lion Great Longstone



Good Food, Good Drinks  
and a Warm Welcome from  
Buster and Pauline

**New exciting menu**

Rear Beer Garden & Car Park  
Child Friendly, Accessible Toilets  
Dog Friendly in Main Bar

**01629 640252**

 @whiteliongreatlongstone

## Packhorse Inn December Menu

### Starters

- House Marinated Olives £4 + toasted bread & oil £3
- Parsnip and apple soup, crusty bread £8
- Smoked haddock Kedgeree & soft boiled egg £9
- Guinea fowl terrine, celeriac remoulade & seasonal chutney, crostini £8.50
- Creamy goats cheese & cranberry arancini, port and orange glaze £8.50
- Smoked mackerel and horseradish paté, crispy capers with crostini £9

### Mains

- Porchetta with bubble and squeak and braised red cabbage, gravy £24
- Venison burger, chorizo jam, cheddar, chips and pickles £19
- Confit duck leg, sweet potato puree, juniper braised cabbage & pink peppercorn sauce £22
- Roast turkey crown with all the trimmings £20
- Braised beef cheek, horseradish mash and roast root veg £24
- Pan fried haddock, parsnip puree, smoked pancetta, & parsley cream £22
- Dry rubbed Venison haunch, tartiflette with sweet and sour onions £24
- Parsnip, chestnut & cranberry terrine, with all the trimmings £19
- Sausage & mash with juniper braised red cabbage, onion gravy £18
- Marinated bavette, tenderstem broccoli, house chips and Diane sauce £25

### Sides

- House Fries £3.75    Santa's Xmas fries £5    Buttered Mash £3.75
- Seasonal Veg £4    Stuffing ball £1    Pigs in blankets £5

### Desserts

- Sticky ginger pudding with fennel infused butterscotch sauce £8
- Homemade Bakewell pudding £8
- White chocolate and cranberry parfait £8
- Mulled poached pear with vegan vanilla ice cream £8
- Coldeaton Ice Cream and Sorbet selection £2 a scoop
- Packhorse cheese selection £13

## Christmas with all the Trimmings at the Village Shop



*We are now taking orders for all your festive food and treats  
Get into the seasonal spirit  
with a Christmas tree and locally made wreath*

### The Main Event

- Our own Belted Galloway grass-fed beef
- Yorkshire turkey
- Pigs in blankets
- Other meat and poultry
- Don't forget the stuffing!
- All the trimmings - potatoes, sprouts and red cabbage
- Turkey orders by 1st December, other meat by the 8th

### The Teatime Buffet

- Local pork pie
- Cheese from around Europe
- Pickles and chutneys
- Homemade meat pies and quiche made to order
- Don't forget the bread and butter!

### The Dessert

- Homemade Christmas cake
- Deep filled mince pies
- Lashings of Longley Farm cream

We can deliver at a time that suits you right up to 8pm Christmas Eve  
**Who needs a supermarket with the Village Shop on your doorstep?  
You've tried the rest, now try the best!**

## The Packhorse Inn Hours

Please note the following changes to our advertised opening hours below during the festive season.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all from the Packhorse!

### December Opening Hours

- Fri 12th and 19th 12-11pm  
(food 12-3pm, 5-8.45pm)
- Mon 22nd-Fri 2nd Jan 12-3pm 5-11pm  
(food 12-2.15pm, 5-9pm)
- Saturday and Sundays open all day

### Xmas & New Year Opening Hours

- 24th Dec 12-11pm (food 12-8.45pm)
- 25th Dec (drinks only) 12-2pm
- 26th Dec 12-9pm (food 12-6.30pm)
- 31st Dec 12-12 (food 12-8.45pm)
- 1st Jan 12-9pm (food 12-6.30pm)



## The Packhorse Inn Little Longstone

*Excellent hand-pulled ales and seasonal, monthly à la carte menu*

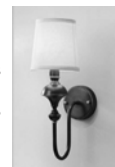
- Mon-Fri 5-11 (food to 8)
- Sat 12-11 (food to 9)
- Sun 12-10 (food to 8)

Outside casual dining with table service throughout the pub and covered pergola at rear

Check website or  
Facebook for latest details  
**packhorsealongstone.co.uk**  
☎ 01629 640471

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## Christmas Toy Service

Sara Cox, the Radio 2 DJ, ran 135 miles from Kielder Forest to Pudsey. The weather was miserable and the hills were steep. Her calves were so sore that she had to walk backwards downhill on one day. All of this was for *Children in Need*, and she raised a staggering £9.5 million through the generosity of the British public. All of that money will go to support 460,000 children who face mental health struggles, poverty, social inequality and family challenges. Some of the children who spoke on the radio displayed remarkable courage, very much supported by the work of many charities.

Our Christmas Toy service, at 10.30am in St Giles on 7th December, has a more modest aim, to give a Christmas toy to local children who might not receive any. Each year, we invite our congregation and the village to generously donate a present or two to Chesterfield Hospitals Children's Unit. They are always warmly received and given to children most in need.

If you are willing to donate please gift wrap your toy and write a note saying what age it is suitable for and, if appropriate, if it is for a girl or a boy. Gifts for teenagers are always very welcome. You can bring it to church for the service or drop it off at church the day before.

Your donations will be very welcome. Please help!

**Frank Hammond, Church Warden**

**All Saints Parish Church, Bakewell**  
**Christmas Tree Festival**  
**12<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December**  
**9.30am - 4.00pm**

**EVENTS**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Opening Service @ 7pm followed by wine & nibbles

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Bel Canto Concert @ 11.15am & Bakewell Choral Society Carol Concert @ 7.30pm

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Christingle @ 6pm

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>  
 'The sound of Christmas' @ 7.00pm with Peak Voices, Darley Dale brass band and Bakewell Youth Theatre, hosted by Emmerdale's Andy Moore.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Community Carol Service & closing of the festival @ 6pm

Refreshments available daily from 10.00am - 3.30pm

All Saints Parish Church Bakewell

**CAROL & TOY SERVICE**

**4PM, SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**  
 The Church of the Good Shepherd, Wardlow, SK17 8RP

Join us for a family-friendly Carol Service, followed by tea and mince pies. We're collecting new, wrapped toys (labelled with age and gender) to be distributed by Chesterfield Hospital to children in need. Please give generously and help us share some Christmas Joy!

This service follows our Christmas Craft Day. All welcome!

**Children's CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Come and join the Children of Wardlow for a fun-filled afternoon there will be games, crafts, presents, and of course, Farther Christmas!

Please note that children must be supervised at all times.

Tickets are £5 per Child

**3-5 PM, MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**  
 Village Hall, Wardlow, Buxton SK17 8RP

Tickets must be purchased beforehand. For more information or to book tickets contact Claire on 07727 635783.

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 www.monsaltails.co.uk

## Christmas Carols

This popular event will take place as usual, by the Christmas Tree on the Village Green, at 6.30pm on 24th December.

If the weather forces it to be cancelled at short notice, an update will be posted on the Great Longstone Community Facebook page.

We do still need some volunteer wardens to help to keep the event safe. If you can help out for half an hour, please contact me on **07968 295258**.

**Simon Headington**

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE TREE GREAT LONGSTONE VILLAGE GREEN



*Bring your tablet or phone - scan the QR Code below for the Carol Sheet*



[greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk/christmas-eve-in-great-longstone](http://greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk/christmas-eve-in-great-longstone)

**Christmas Eve 6.30-7pm**

**Christmas Craft Fair**  
 Sunday 7th December 10am-4pm  
*in aid of*  
 Ashford War Memorial Institute  
 16 stalls - Handmade Crafts and Food  
 Buy locally for all your Christmas Gifts!  
 Free admission - Refreshments

**Stalls £10**  
 Enquiries to Pat:  
 PatPaulett@hotmail.co.uk  
 07542 540244

**Bruno Cardona Chimney Sweep**

07849455794

Bcardona1977@gmail.com

## Thornhill House Move

We are continuing to have regular meetings regarding the legal side of the purchase of The Grange, Station Road, the planning permission that will need to be obtained and the financial means to make it all happen. Each of these areas is advancing well, and we anticipate being in a position to give more information about these matters early in the New Year.

The results of the fundraising feasibility study are expected in December. Additionally, we have a pre-planning meeting booked with The Peak Park, also in December. Following this, we will book an open meeting to share and seek feedback on our early-stage plans and ideas.

**Lucy Wright**

## Congratulations, Doug!

On Thursday 13th November, Doug Walker celebrated the achievement of having reached 100 years old.

His exceptional birthday and celebrations began the day before, with a visit of one of his three favourite performers. Doug was given a special performance by Sophia Penn-Critten, the Singing Harpist.

Another of Doug's favourite performers, singer Steve Shaw, serenaded him on the morning of his birthday, and the finale of his remarkable week was Annie Fotheringham singing for him and his fellow residents on Saturday 15th November.

On the afternoon of his birthday, Thornhill House welcomed Doug's family and friends to a special birthday tea party. Doug enjoyed his celebrity status, especially on receiving a card, now framed, from the king, along with his beautiful birthday cake and afternoon tea scones.

**Joy Thrower**



## Goboka Rwanda Trust Proms Concert

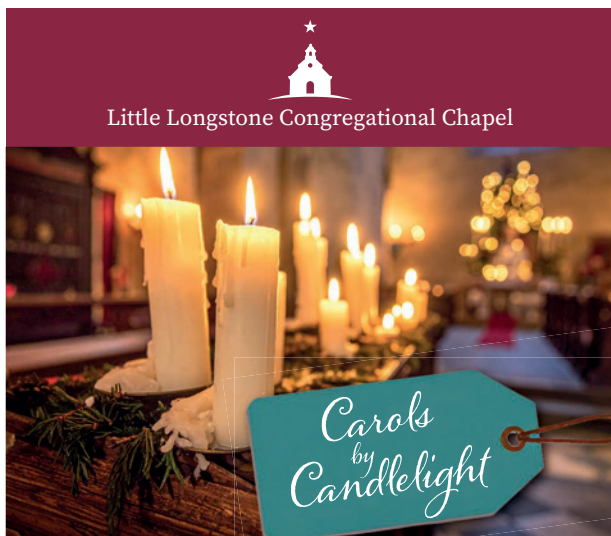
I think I speak on behalf of everyone who supported this concert, when I say it was a very enjoyable and patriotic evening. The Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills band played a cross section of music from the musicals to Rule Britannia, ably supported by Imogen Clark, who sang beautifully, whilst the audience managed one or two songs but lots of flag waving.

This year's concert raised in the region of £1,600, which

will be used to continue the work started with last years contribution that was used to provide 750 people with much needed medical insurance.

All this was made possible thanks to all concerned giving their time and expertise so generously, and of course, thank you to the Hopkins family for the use of their theatre.

**Jean Gledhill**



Little Longstone Congregational Chapel

The Chapel will be decorated with Christmas Trees from the 1st December until the New Year.

### Friday 19th December - from 6pm

Christmas music, songs and carols with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies to finish. Young, old and those in between welcome to wear their festive headwear and bring percussion instruments to join in.

### Sunday 21st December - from 2pm

Micklemas with folk music and local carols being played throughout the afternoon. Drop in at anytime. Christmas Fayre available.



Sunday 14th Dec  
1-4pm

GREAT LONGSTONE VILLAGE HALL

## Christmas Crafts

A fun family friendly afternoon of  
Christmas Crafts

Free for residents and their families  
of Longstones, Rowland, Hassop,  
Monsal Head and Wardlow  
and all pupils from Longstone School  
£5 charge for non residents

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**LEAP**  
Longstone Events & Activities Project



  
**Christmas Jumper Day**





JOIN US FOR A

# FUN FESTIVE QUIZ NIGHT

WITH QUIZ MASTER MARK WRIGHT IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN  
 FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER FROM 9PM

£1 PER PERSON TO ENTER. FREE DRINKS FOR THE QUIZ WINNERS. RAFFLE PRIZES. PRIZE FOR THE SNAZZIEST CHRISTMAS JUMPER.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**


 THE CRISPIN, GREAT LONGSTONE DE451TZ  
 01629 640237



# CAROLS WITH CRESSBROOK BAND

## At The Crispin

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER FROM 7PM

Join us this December for a truly festive evening of Christmas carols with Cressbrook Band. Gather with family and friends to enjoy Christmas spirit, joy, warmth, and love of the season.

**Everyone Welcome**

The Crispin, Great Longstone 01629 640237

## THE MONSAL

CANTEEN • STABLES BAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**12 PINTS OF CHRISTMAS**  
 Monday 1st December • All Month

**WREATH & WRAP**  
 Tuesday 2nd December • 7pm

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**  
 Sun 14th December • Morning

**LIVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH GINNY & STELLA**  
 Friday 19th December • 8pm

**CRAPPY CHRISTMAS QUIZ**  
 Tuesday 23rd December • 8pm

## THE MONSAL

# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2025

EARLY BIRD 8.30AM / LAZY SUNDAY 10AM

<b>STANDARD TICKET</b> Includes a small gift and certificate from Santa, breakfast and a hot drink <b>£15 CHILD / £12.50 ADULT</b>	<b>DELUXE TICKET</b> Includes bigger gift and certificate from Santa, breakfast and indulgent hot chocolate, mimosa for Mummy & bullshot for Daddy! <b>£20 CHILD / £17.50 ADULT</b>
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PLUS plenty of fun craft activities, festive fun and quality time for all.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY TO BOOK:  
[MAIL@THEMONSAL.CO.UK](mailto:MAIL@THEMONSAL.CO.UK)



## Len Hull

At the time of the worst snow in living memory, on 1st February 1947, Leonard Hull was born to William and Marjorie at Chapeltown, near Sheffield. He was their second son, and his father trudged four miles through the snow to visit the newborn.

The first sign of Len's indomitable spirit was apparent when at four years old, he set off alone on his tricycle to visit his grandparents in a village three miles from home. On reaching their cottage, his grandfather turned him round and walked him home, making him ride up all the hills and push down them!

Len attended the local primary school in Stocksbridge, and then Penistone Grammar School. By this time, he had shown a serious interest in archery, and by the age of fifteen, was the National Under 15-year-old champion. His father was the driving force behind Len's success, but the pressure of continual competition depleted teenage Len's enthusiasm. He was showing interest in other pursuits, and his focus had to be on education.

Schooling was something of a trial for a young man who, although bright and capable, was more inclined to adventure and fun. To get to university, he needed 'O' level Latin, and the additional tuition required did not thrill him. During the period of extra Latin tuition, he spent a short time teaching advanced English at the local junior school. He eventually acquired the grade needed and arrived at University College, London to read English, where he enjoyed a varied social life and was a typical student of the 70s.

As soon as he was old enough, he became interested in motor vehicles, both bikes and cars. He had the ability to both repair and sell – the gift of the gab! A short period of honing his skills as a salesman followed, and he was accepted as a graduate trainee at a large motor vehicle distributor. Without doubt, Len was a natural salesman, and it wasn't long before he went into business with his older brother. They owned and ran two car showrooms in the South Yorkshire area.

Len was always interested in personal challenges, and followed individual disciplines such as motorbike scrambling, climbing, skiing and squash, rather than team sports. He thrived on the adrenaline rush delivered by pastimes that would these days come under the category of 'Extreme Sports'.

By 1976, Len had transferred his passion to the new sport of hang gliding. He was a founding member of the Derbyshire Soaring Club, and devoted all his leisure time to this exciting, adrenaline-producing pastime. Many hours were spent on exposed hill tops, waiting for the wind to 'pick up' or 'drop off'!

For the next eight years, Len shared his life with every aspect of hang gliding – negotiating and securing sites in Derbyshire, participating in competitions both nationally and abroad, and encouraging and promoting this new sport to anyone who showed the remotest interest in becoming involved. His business ventures in South Yorkshire were exciting and successful, until the year-long miners' strike of 1984-85 devastated the essential base of motor vehicle sales. The business was sold, and Len and his family relocated to Cressbrook Hall. From here, he was able to indulge his passion for flying 100%. He retailed hang gliding equipment and paraphernalia, and also gave tuition.

The golden years for British hang gliding were 1983-87. Len was a British team member for many years, and travelled to all the major competitions in Europe, Australia and Brazil. He was team manager for the British team at the 1983

World Championships in Germany and on 1st May 1984, as a member of many of the successful teams, was presented to HM Queen Elizabeth II at the Royal Aero Club's Awards Ceremony, held at the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall, in recognition of the team's many competition achievements. At the Australian Buffalo Cup in 1987, Len finished 8th in the world.

During this frenetic flying period in Len's life, he made many friendships with flyers from all over the world. He



*Len flying, and with the team*

was particularly close to members of the Hungarian national team, and his family enjoyed reciprocal holidays staying as guests in each other's homes. When they came to Derbyshire, they were introduced to Chatsworth and the delights of the Derbyshire tradition of ragwort picking at Cressbrook Hall (at 1p per root). They took to this with great enthusiasm and dedication by clearing about two acres.

Len's creative and innovative skills were always evident. On one homeward journey from competition in Hungary, the ancient team bus broke down in the middle of nowhere. With no means of obtaining spare parts or knowledgeable assistance, Len fashioned the necessary part from wire coat hangers and the team limped home slowly but safely to Blighty. He then went on to invent and design a method of flying hang gliders in a supine position.

Len's hang gliding activities dominated his life for most of the 1980s and 90s, and there were very few mishaps until a serious landing miscalculation resulted in an accident and head injury at Grindleford. A couple of years later, a paraglider accident at Bradwell Edge resulted in a spinal

injury, and finally, in 2003, he sustained another serious head injury while landing at Dignes-les-Bains in France. He spent 18 months receiving excellent care and treatment courtesy of the Head and Spinal Injury Unit at the Northern General Hospital, and although his participation in the sports that were so important to him were curtailed, he made a miraculous recovery to be able to enjoy life with his original enthusiasm and optimism.

Unfortunately, during his recovery period, Len was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and kidney cancer.



*Len on cover of Wings, and teaching his son Ben in 2008*  
 These conditions seriously affected his mobility, but he continued to enjoy life at Cressbrook, walking daily, and he returned to his love of English and the written word.



*Len in Ashford-in-the-Water*

Eventually, his mobility was so severely compromised that his care at Cressbrook Hall and then Ashford-in-the-Water became too difficult, and he moved to Thornhill House for residential care. He is now a happy resident, enjoying the professional support and care from loving and dedicated staff. He still retains the core of his original personality – stubborn and determined – but remains, as always, courteous, appreciative and a joy to visit.

**Bobby Hull-Bailey**

### Tread Softly Antics ... and a Thought about Advent

Here is a wee picture of this week's joy and fun, out and about. We came across a lovely poo bag sitting all alone, and wondered if it was a gift – we weren't sure whether to accept it! Not all gifts, as we know, are asked for or wanted, so we chatted about whether it might be meant for someone else, sort of hoping it was. However, I learned recently that the contemplative's response, listening and accepting, is 'Ahh, there you are!' So we decided it was ours to dispose of, along with another.

Please join us at 12.30pm for 10 to 15 minutes for Alfresco Advent Prayers on Wednesdays during Advent and into the New Year (except Christmas Day), in St Giles Churchyard, by the yew tree. Our contemplative prayers and reflections will draw on words from the Iona Community Worship book and other Celtic writers, and include periods of silence. Following the Celtic spirituality style, we will reflect and pray for Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Faith on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st December and 7th January.

We will be sharing coffee and cake from around 11.45am in the church as usual after our Tread Softly walk. You are very welcome to come for coffee beforehand, whether or not

you join the walk. Walking in the depths of winter is not for everyone – however much I like it! If you prefer, though, just come and try out alfresco prayers. Please dress warmly. Anyone who loves the great outdoors, doesn't mind reflecting on our Advent themes in the rain or snow, and may even feel the need to experience this type of prayer, is very welcome indeed, as are children and well-behaved pets on a lead.

On a practical note, we know there are many kind and caring people who look out for neighbours around our village and beyond. At this time of year, circumstances and needs can change. If you know of anyone who would appreciate prayers or a visit and possibly practical help, and you are unable to help, please put a note with your contact details in an envelope, under the vestry door (St Giles is open daily 10am-4pm), for collection each Wednesday.

Equally, if you can offer an hour of your time over the next few weeks, please also leave your details in the same way. It may be we can try to connect up people in a way that works well. This may not be a perfect way forward, but it may help us consider the best process for the future. Thank you!

**Alison Waltho**



## The Carer who became Family



*Yemi Olaseinde*



*Jean Beard*



*John Beard*

While live-in care promotes longevity and continuity, there are very few instances where a carer resides in the home for a remarkable eight years. For Mr John Beard and his late wife Jean, this was precisely the case. The bond they formed with their carer, Oyeyemi 'Yemi' Olaseinde, was undeniable. 'She used to call me dad,' John said, smiling. Yemi's eight years of continuous care meant putting her life in London on hold, spending months at a time away from her two daughters. During the pandemic, and as Jean's dementia worsened, Yemi stayed with the couple for six straight months. This is the longest care placement Elder has facilitated, and perhaps one of the longest examples of 'loving care' as Mr Beard describes it, in the country.

We met John Beard in the bungalow built for Jean in Great Longstone, a home brimming with character and rich in memories. Greeted at the door by the 90-something-year-old, John ushers us over to a framed wedding photo of the couple, and a certificate from Queen Elizabeth II acknowledging their diamond anniversary. As we're seated in the living room, Mr Beard shows us his wife's funeral programme and remarks on her picture. 'That was taken when I went into the RAF,' he said. 'We got married on 10th July 1954, and I was called up in October. I had it by my locker.'

The Beards dated from the ages of 16 to 22; their bond solidified at a local church youth club. Their first encounter, or rather the occasion Jean first laid eyes on John, was rather comical. 'She once saw me riding to school and thought my cycling was somewhat ungainly,' John said, chuckling. She said to a friend 'Who's that drip?', but she put up with that drip for 71 years. 'She was a bit shy; she was interested in everything; she was straightforward. She was my all.'

After John left the RAF in 1956, as part of his national service, the couple moved to Sheffield to raise a family. With the welcomed addition of their two children, Alastair and Fiona, the family moved several times before residing in Ashford-in-the-Water for many years. Jean ran the home whilst devoting her time to her local community. She served as treasurer and a committee member for both the Ashford Institute and the local Women's Institute. She also volunteered for numerous years at the Bakewell Red Cross Store. Meanwhile, John built himself a successful career as an accountant, joining what had been his grandfather's firm in Sheffield. In retirement, he became heavily involved with the Freemasons. As a member of the charitable committee, he ultimately earned

himself the title of Deputy Grand Master for Derbyshire.

Upon Jean's dementia diagnosis in 2009, it became apparent to John that their converted 200-year-old barn in Foolow, where they had lived for 32 years, wasn't adequate for his wife's needs. Relocating to their bungalow a year later, he recalled the time both of them realised Jean's condition was worsening. 'She'd taken our grandson to swimming. She had come out in her car, and didn't know which way to turn. She turned left instead of right. It was then that I realised that something was wrong. Then we went through all the different stages they go through. They worry about curtains getting pulled, doors being locked. Then it gets to the stage where they don't worry, which in a way is good, but it also means they're at a lower stage.' It wasn't until a fall, in which Jean fractured her pelvis, that John realised he needed help. 'At that stage I had to do something,' he said. 'Whilst I could help her during the day, I couldn't do the night bit as well.'

At first, the idea of having a carer in the home can be daunting for most, but the help from carer Yemi proved invaluable in so many ways. Within a few weeks, Yemi and Jean bonded. Between the care duties, they watched television, shopped, and completed puzzles, one of Jean's favourite hobbies before her diagnosis.

John recalls the smells of Nigerian cooking and how Yemi referred to him as 'dad'. 'She was very capable at caring, and she looked after Jean very well,' he said. For eight years, John, Fiona and Alastair entrusted their loved one to Yemi's care. Yemi became the foundation of Jean's world, and in turn, the family rallied to see Yemi return home to London for breaks when she could. John would pay for Yemi's train tickets where he could, and Alastair would drive her back to London.

Before going on break, Yemi made sure that John and Jean found the best respite carer. 'We always tried to get the same carers, and Yemi was insistent she got the right person,' John said. 'Yemi and I used to look at carers and make our decisions together. Jean would settle when Yemi was away, but she always knew her when she came back.' Away from her own two daughters, Yemi was embraced as a member of the family and cared for Jean until her peaceful passing in March this year.

There was no doubt in John's mind that home, as opposed to a care home, was where his wife needed to be. Continuity of care and a familiar environment were paramount to Jean's health, safety, and peace of mind. 'The fact that she was here

at home, and I was here, made life much better for her, and much better for us,' he said. 'Home every time.'

With the bungalow just around the corner from their daughter's home, the couple could expect regular visits from their grandchildren. This, Mr Beard said, used to 'pluck up' his wife, especially as her dementia worsened. 'You tried telling her that you loved her very much, but you weren't sure she was getting it,' he said. 'Towards the end, there wasn't much reaction, but one breakfast time, I went in and got the most dazzling smile. It was like a ray of sunshine.'

Yemi knows all too well the hardships that are faced with a dementia diagnosis. Looking after her grandmother, who lived with dementia, inspired her to become a carer. 'I like being a companion,' she said. 'That's what a lot of the elderly want. A companion, a friend.' Yemi's longest placement with John and Jean Beard was for six months during the pandemic. While it was difficult being away from her own two daughters for such a lengthy period, she described the Beard family as 'marvellous'. 'Mrs Beard was used to me,' she said. 'I knew all of the family, the grandchildren, everyone. When it came time for the placement to end, Mr Beard didn't want me to

go.' John and Yemi still stay connected via regular phone calls.

John stressed the importance of looking out for signs of dementia, and seeking help and a diagnosis immediately. 'First of all, you've got to realise the symptoms, and you've got to make sure you get them looked at by a psychiatrist, via a doctor, because the signs are always there,' he said. 'It needs to be diagnosed at an early stage, and I'm all for that.'

Elder's Head of Clinical, Bianca Wardle, concurs. 'From a clinical standpoint, an early dementia diagnosis is fundamentally the most important step a family can take, as it reduces uncertainty and gives the person and their families a greater sense of control,' she said. 'An early diagnosis allows families to develop a personalised care plan, involve relevant professionals, and introduce supportive therapies while the person can fully participate. Most importantly, it gives families the time to make informed decisions about care and future planning before a crisis hits. Waiting until symptoms worsen can make planning more challenging, may lead to last-minute decisions that affect the person's dignity and well-being, and could contribute to a faster progression of their condition.' **Mark Acheson**

*Elder is an award-winning home care platform that matches older adults with self-employed carers for flexible and personalised care across the UK. Elder provides quality live-in care by matching carers with older adults based on their care needs, personality, interests, and hobbies. For more information, visit [www.elder.org](http://www.elder.org) or call 01618 261 796.*

## Peak Wesley Way

Thank you to the team of volunteers who have made it possible for the hundreds of pilgrims to experience the Peak Wesley Way this year, its second year of operation. Great Longstone Chapel is the second overnight stop for the pilgrims, and, like all the chapels providing accommodation along the route, is kitted out with camp beds, shower and kitchenette, although many enjoy eating out at the Crispin or the White Lion, and buy sandwiches from the friendly Village Shop. A local volunteer usually drops by in the evening to offer a friendly welcome. Several of the pilgrims groups have attended local church services at St Giles and other churches en route.

Pilgrims have travelled from all over the UK and Ireland, and some have even come from the US and Canada to walk the Peak Wesley Way. They included families, friends, solo pilgrims, ministers on sabbatical, church groups as well as people with no church connections. They ranged from seasoned walkers and pilgrims to a group completing a 'Couch to Camino' walk in preparation for walking the Camino de Santiago.

We have received brilliant feedback, with so many compliments to the 'invisible saints' who prepared their welcome, and their joy at meeting the welcomers in person. It is so encouraging to hear such praise and to know that we

have succeeded in bringing our original vision to life. Here is one of the reviews:

*I want to let you know what a wonderful experience we had. We were blessed with the most magnificent weather which allowed us, and in particular Doreen, our Camino friend from Canada, to appreciate the Peak District in all its glory. The route each day was a splendid variety of hills and valleys, ridge walking and river courses. Plus there was the added benefit of walking from the White Peak and finishing in the Dark Peak. The people we met both along the way and in our daily destinations were the most warm, friendly and helpful bunch. The whole six days were a pure joy. Thank you to all who have put this route together, planned the overnight stays, and continue to administer and look after the PWW. Your efforts deserve wider coverage. We will continue to sing its praises and encourage our fellow walkers to consider this route.*

Many pilgrims who booked on the Peak Wesley Way have family and friends in the Peak District who they met up with during their pilgrimage. Please do continue to spread the word of this wonderful spiritual experience and invite people to book their pilgrimage for next year.

**Alex Harrison**



## Cleaner wanted...

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**Peak Wesley Way**

## Longstone Local History Group

The latest meeting of the Longstone Local History Group was held on 18th November, when a couple of videos of local historical interest were shown. The first, *Backtracks in the Peak*, featured the history and development of some of the local roads and trackways. In the second, *Longstone between the Wars*, two former life-long residents of the village shared

their memories of growing up here in the 1930s.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas party, with a quiz devised by the group's committee, on Tuesday 16th December in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Members are asked to bring a contribution of party food for sharing.

**Peter Donaldson**

## BECT's Been Busy!



**Bakewell and Eyam COMMUNITY TRANSPORT** It's been a very busy year at Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport. Our regular door-to-door trips, using our accessible minibuses, mean that those

who would otherwise struggle to get out and about can visit shopping locations, enjoy garden centres and look forward to going out for lunch. Our trips are not only about the destination, but also about the conversation, the laughs, the change of scenery and the friendships forged on the way.

We continue to offer transport for community groups and enjoy playing a part in the social calendars of a variety of local organisations.

The highlights of the year were most definitely our seaside trips which, in the main, had good weather – the benefits of the sea air, accompanied by fish and chips and plenty of ice cream, were greatly enjoyed.

Back in June, we were very lucky to benefit from a fabulous concert by Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills Brass Band

and a very talented local soloist. Not only was this a fantastic fundraiser, but it was also very much enjoyed by many of our regular passengers.

Our volunteer car scheme is providing an increasing number of journeys to essential healthcare appointments. Many journeys are short and local, but pose the same challenges in a rural area, whatever the distance. New volunteers are always welcome – there's no regular commitment required. The more volunteers we have, the more people we can help!

Our secondhand bookshop, Book End in Bakewell, continues to make an important contribution to our charity, and we are very grateful to our team of volunteers and for the generous book donations we receive.

We are busy making plans for the year ahead. For more information about any of our services, please see our website [bect.org.uk](http://bect.org.uk) or telephone **01629 641920**.

**Helen Chapman**

## How Do We Know what They're Doing?

Since the last edition of UTE, another County Councillor has resigned. This time, it was Richard Morgan, the Reform candidate, who was elected for the Horsley division in Amber Valley in May this year. He resigned citing ill health, shortly before he would have been removed for non-attendance, as he had only attended one meeting out of six since starting his elected role. It is unclear whether anybody in his division noticed his non-performance (although I am delivering Green Party leaflets there next weekend and may find out), as it is surprisingly hard to get any idea of what the council is really doing, or indeed what any individual councillor does.

As regular readers will know, the County Council is responsible for transport, children's services and adult social care. Transport is possibly the most visible aspect to us council tax payers, with pot-hole filling and resurfacing trucks turning up (and occasionally breaking down) in the village. Recently, Storm Claudia resulted in a rash of council messages on social media and email about road closures due to floods, and on three occasions recently, the council has closed roads due to the emergency felling of trees on privately owned land that pose a risk to road users. Some readers will have first-hand experience of either children's services or adult social care provided by the council.

Trying to get any sense of what our County Council is trying to achieve requires trawling through documents on the council website, attending or watching the livestreams of public meetings, and keeping an eye on any utterances from county councillors. Those who do use social media tend to vary between endless posts of the baby-kissing variety, featuring local charity events, and others that share questionable memes to achieve political point-scoring. Some do try and share useful information about happenings at council, but it seems most councillors are too busy to write concise summaries of council policies to share on their Facebook pages. The *Derbyshire Times* carries occasional

articles, often written by Eddie Bisknell, their Local Democracy reporter, under a scheme funded by the BBC to support public service reporting.

Council Leader Alan Graves took the unusual step of hosting a meet and greet for the media at County Hall on 10th November. This featured 'Cabinet members who all gave updates and answered questions on their respective portfolios', according to Jon Cooper in the *Derbyshire Times*. He may have been the only member of the media there, as this meeting doesn't seem to have been reported elsewhere. Cllr Graves claimed the Reform administration have made savings of £53 million, and the lengthy and uncritical article reports Cabinet members explaining how they had made savings.

Despite these apparent savings, Cllr Graves was quoted in a BBC News article on 11th November, saying that our Council Tax would rise by 4.99%, the maximum allowed, because 'if we reduce income, it effectively might cut front-line services, and I won't do that.' Then, at the Council Meeting on 13th November, the Council approved a proposal to spend £5 million on the design and implementation stages of their Transformation and Efficiency Programme, built on the conclusions of consultants PwC, who had carried out a 10-week review of the council's operating model.

As discussed, it's hard to get any sense of whether our council tax is being spent wisely or not, and difficult to see the impacts of any changes made so far, other than the closures of five adult education centres and the sale of eight care homes. We have definitely not seen any improvements in bus services, but the council has lost interest in most bus services, as responsibility for public transport will be transferred to the East Midlands Mayor in April next year. Potholes, adult social care and children's services remain with DCC, so we will wait and see what happens.

**Georgina Blair**

## Longstone Area Neighbourhood Plan Update

We received some great feedback from a short survey conducted at October's Book Swap Café – thanks to those who contributed.

Marches Energy Agency will be attending the Book Swap Café on 26th November to give free and impartial advice about keeping warm in homes and advice on renewables. Please come along and find out what help is available to you. We will also have the use of a Thermal Imaging Camera to help householders identify areas of poor insulation within their homes.

We are producing a general questionnaire, covering the

main topics within the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be issued in December, and will help the workstreams focused on the issues important to you. Please take time to respond to this, as it will help us produce a plan that aligns with your opinions.

As always, this whole process relies on you to express your opinions and thoughts. If you wish to contact us about joining a workstream, or to leave suggestions, then please email [villageplan@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk](mailto:villageplan@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk). It is going to be a busy few months, so please do help us by feeding back.

**Cllr Andy Douglass, GLPC**

## GL Cricket Club Prospects for 2026 – Calling all New Players, Juniors and Women!

Forgive us for writing an article about cricket as we enter the depths of winter. Hopefully, when you read this, the England cricket team will be enjoying the Australian summer and be 2-0 up in the Ashes. Whilst GLCC's ambitions are not quite so lofty, we do hope to continue to develop our offering for all people from Longstone and the surrounding areas who wish to play, or be involved in any aspect of cricket in Great Longstone. Many of you will be aware of the much welcomed regular return of cricket to the Rec last summer from the last edition of UTE - but in case you are not, let me briefly recap.

- We established a squad of over 25 players of varied ages that played twelve friendly fixtures during the summer and managed to win more than half of these. All were tightly contested matches, making for a number of exciting finishes.
- We established a thriving section for under-8 and under-11-year-old girls and boys, who completed the English Cricket Board (ECB) All Stars (for under-8s) and Dynamos (for under-11s) programmes. By the end of the summer, we had enrolled just shy of 40 children, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves under the direction of GLCC volunteers on most Saturday mornings from mid-May to early July.
- As part of LASRA, we were centrally involved in cutting and maintaining the Rec. This also saw the renovation of the cricket square, now a multi-purpose space for croquet and bowls as well, after it deteriorated during the Covid period.
- We have joined into a successful partnership with Buxton Cricket Club. Their Fifth Team play their home fixtures on our ground on eight Saturdays throughout the season, generating significant revenue for LASRA.
- We received kind donations towards new equipment in the form of a new bowling machine (we now have two) and funding, which has facilitated the purchase of a much-needed new practice net, raising the overall standard of our facilities. Many thanks to all of our generous supporters, sponsors and donors – LASRA, Great Longstone PC, Little Longstone PM, Peak Ales, the Monsal Head Canteen and Stables Bar, and Lizzie Long for the sterling job she did running the bar.

Following the success of GLCC's first season of friendly fixtures, we will arrange around 15 mid-week fixtures for 2026, and hope to improve on our 50% win rate. If there are any girls and women reading this article who would like to participate in cricket, regardless of their previous experience, or to assist in the wider running of the club, we would be delighted to hear from you. It is our ambition in the forthcoming years to establish a vibrant women's section



for all age groups, so if you have any ideas for developing this, please do not hesitate to email Dave Richards at [pugrichards@gmail.com](mailto:pugrichards@gmail.com) or Martin Pinder at [marnevpin@gmail.com](mailto:marnevpin@gmail.com). Our friendly fixtures are open to mixed teams, and there is also the opportunity to learn the game in the net sessions we run throughout the summer, so do please feel free to take up this opportunity. We are a club open to all.

For all of our home fixtures, we will be again running a match day bar, offering both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, which we hope will both enhance and encourage residents to take the opportunity to come along and support our team in the most convivial of environments.

We will also once again run the ECB All Stars and Dynamos programmes, and we will strive to attract up to 40 children to participate in our Saturday programmes. Information and updates can be found on our Facebook page [facebook.com/GreatLongstoneCricketClub](https://www.facebook.com/GreatLongstoneCricketClub). For those children too old for these programmes, we will organise and run nets for under-13, and perhaps also under-15-year-old children, both girls and boys, and if we can attract sufficient players, we will organise some friendly fixtures for these youngsters to test themselves against their peers in other local clubs.

Finally, we hope to continue to develop cricket in the area by extending partnerships with an additional club in the region, who wish to play their league fixtures on the Rec on Saturdays. We will continue to bring you updates from GLCC throughout the Winter, and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we prepare for the Summer of 2026.

**Martin Pinder and Dave Richards**



This month, our Christmas party is on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Please bring a sweet or savoury dish to share, and don't forget your Secret Santa present. All welcome.

Zoe McGregor

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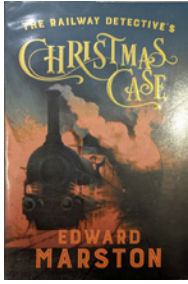
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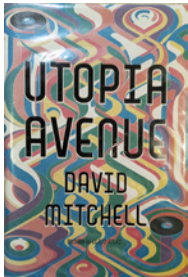


## Bakewell Library Recommends...



**The Railway Detective's Christmas Case** by Edward Marston. December 1864. As a bitter winter wind sweeps across the Worcestershire countryside, an excursion train emerges from a tunnel in the Malvern Hills – only to find the track ahead blocked. The driver slows the train, avoiding disaster, but the passengers are shaken. Cyril Huddleday, organiser of the festive trip to Great Malvern, is the first to step off. As he speaks with the train crew, a sniper's bullet strikes him down. With Christmas fast approaching, Inspector Robert Colbeck and Sergeant Victor Leeming are under pressure to solve the murder swiftly. But the investigation is complicated by heavy snowfall, hidden grudges, and a tangle of motives behind the seasonal excursion. The hunt for a cold-blooded killer proves anything but straightforward.

This latest addition to Edward Marston's Railway Detective series shows no sign of slowing down. Familiar characters return, and the festive setting adds a traditional charm. The plot is cleverly constructed, full of red herrings, and its resolution is satisfyingly unpredictable. Fans of the series will not be disappointed. **Rating 4/5**



**Utopia Avenue** by David Mitchell. *Utopia Avenue* might be the most curious British band you've never heard of. Emerging from London's psychedelic scene in 1967, their lyrics captured the turbulence of their era. Though they released only two albums, their musical legacy endures. This novel charts the band's brief but blazing journey—from smoky Soho clubs and draughty ballrooms to the promised land of America – just as the Summer of Love begins to fade into something darker. It's a multi-

layered tale of dreams, drugs, love, madness, grief, and the precarious climb to stardom. At its heart, it explores the clash between youthful idealism and the harsh realities of life, while celebrating music's power to connect across divides.

A riotous tour-de-force, *Utopia Avenue* is entertaining, absorbing, and at times heartbreaking. It captures the dynamic between four complex individuals bound together by the band – each with their own story, yet fatefully intertwined. I just finished it, and already I want to read it again – this time with a soundtrack. **Rating 5/5**



**Grown Ups** by Marian Keyes. *Grown Ups* is a sharply observed, emotionally rich novel about the seemingly perfect Casey family. Johnny Casey, along with his brothers Ed and Liam, and their glamorous, talented wives, appear to have it all. They spend lots of time together – celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and enjoying weekends away. Jessie, Johnny's wealthy wife, is determined to keep the family close and happy. But beneath the surface, tensions simmer. Some family members clash, while others are a little too close for comfort. Everything remains under wraps until Cara, Ed's wife, suffers a concussion and starts saying exactly what she thinks. One unguarded comment at Johnny's birthday party sets off a chain reaction, unravelling long-held secrets and forcing everyone to confront uncomfortable truths.

This is a story about family dynamics, hidden resentments, and personal growth. Though the book is long and packed with characters, Marian Keyes' signature blend of humour and emotional depth makes it well worth sticking with. Her writing is both laugh-out-loud funny and deeply moving, handling serious themes with sensitivity and insight. **Rating 4/5**

Aimee Mills

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## At the Going Down of the Sun and in the Morning We Will Remember Them



David Beale led the Remembrance Service on 9th November at the War Memorial (photos by Ali Plowright and Jane Rigby)

### And now for the Good news

As the flurry of activity leading up to Christmas, with all the shopping and present giving, reaches a climax, is it possible to sit down and wonder what it is all about?

The reason for the season?

Has it been pushed to the margins?

No, Nativity plays and Carol services continue to take place, the latter a service of words and music. One lesson begins. 'For unto us a child is born.' This is no ordinary announcement. The prophet Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus was actually born. This was no ordinary child. He grew to manhood and showed how a life of love is lived with his teaching, healing and miracles. He is the gift given to us all and we show our love to one another by giving presents. The really good news is at Easter! Wait and see! It will be told!

Pat Westwell

### A Churchwarden's Job is Never Done



When the builders came to replace St Giles' lead vestry roof, they reported to Frank Hammond that one of the main support beams had rotted through. Oak beams that big need to be imported from France, so the secure scaffolding will be in place for a while yet. The original quote was for £16,000, but it will now be much more.

### Men's Cooking Group Raises £400 for LEAP!



LEAP's Men's Cooking Group has gone from strength to strength under Annie Davey and Julia Morgan's expert tutelage. From small beginnings (just four turned up for the first session in March 2024, on making a hearty vegetable soup), it's now a sizeable group with twelve regular members. Topics have ranged from cheese scones to Christmas canapés, shortcut pastry to ginger flapjacks. The lemon curd session was meant to provide entries for August's Horticultural Show, but the results were so yummy, they were all consumed before the event, leaving Angela Robinson to win that class by default! There have also been two special sessions – Roger Topham leading the group through some curry recipes he'd picked up on a recent visit to India, and Frank Hammond demonstrating why the finger-licking good lasagne he cooks for his family every month never has any leftovers!

As the sessions are free of charge, and you get to take away

what you've made, Roger Topham suggested the group put on an evening meal to fundraise for LEAP as a thank you. This received enthusiastic support, and it wasn't too much of a surprise that the September planning meeting in The Crispin voted unanimously for a curry evening on Sunday 19th October, with people bringing their own drinks. This was an especially appropriate choice, as Diwali (the Indian festival of lights) was the next day. The only bought-in items were to be poppadoms and naan bread. Starters were samosas and poppadoms with raita and chutneys. Mains were Chicken Korma, Saag Paneer, Lamb Curry and Vegetable Curry with sides of dahl, rice and naan bread. Desserts were Ginger Cake, Kheer, Fruit Flapjack and Orange Polenta Cake. With partners and associates, the numbers for the event were 31, and with tickets at £15 a head, the very enjoyable (and at times raucous!) evening raised just shy of £400 for LEAP.

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

TO BOOK: email4leap@gmail.com

Non-residents may join if there is space but will pay the full cost. Unless otherwise stated all events are in Great Longstone Village Hall.

DATE	EVENT INFORMATION	Charge
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Christmas Wreath Workshop with Sam Moore</b> Come and make a wonderful wreath and enjoy mulled wine and mince pie! All materials are provided and no experience necessary. <b>£35. Book direct with Sam 07873331502</b>	Book with Sam
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.	<b>Men's Cooking Group</b> Come along and make your own mincemeat and Annie's very special mince pies. Please email to book.	FREE
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Christmas Sewing Club with Marge - The Tweed Queen</b> Come along and learn how to make a Rudolph Tweedidermy Head from recycled and deadstock fabrics. Book early as numbers are limited to <b>8 people</b> .	£10 Book in advance
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Christmas Craft afternoon</b> There will be lots of different crafts to make ready for Christmas including table decorations and tree decorations!	FREE
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Monday Monthly Meditation Group</b> Sophie Stephenson expertly and gently guides these monthly meditation sessions. New members are welcome. <b>6.45 p.m. arrival 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.</b>	FREE
🎄 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 🎄	<b>Book Swap Café - last Wednesday of every month 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b> Bring a couple of books to swap and join us for tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.	

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**12th December**  
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(cash if possible)

### Great Job, Alex!



UTE first came across this young waller, Alex Frost from Youlgreave, earlier this year, when he was building a new wall for the Coxes' caravan site on Beggarway Lane (UTE May 2025).

He's just finished another excellent job for Angela and Mike Robinson, completely rebuilding their wall that runs along the snicket that joins Station Road to the Recreation Ground.

If you've got any walls that need attention, you can contact him on **07495 490442**.

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## December Farming Notes



In the last few weeks, we have had some important work to do with the cattle. The first task was bringing eight cows and the bull back to the farm. They have spent the last three months grazing away down near Station Road. At the start of November, during some wild spells of sunshine, wind and rain, we walked the cattle back along Butts Road and up Moor Road to Dale Farm.

Things went more smoothly than the trip down a few months earlier, when the cattle were spooked by new road markings. It took a nine-strong team of helpers to stop traffic and turn the cattle in various places – thank you to Jill and Andre Smith, Andy and Anna Joyce, Peter Shimwell and our friends Shona and Stu, who were visiting us and gave us a hand. The eight cows have been accompanied by a hire bull,

Jock, since August, so it was time to scan the cows to see if they are in calf, and how far along, so the bull can move off the farm to his next destination. This is done by the vet – I felt optimistic, but a little nervous, about the scanning, as it's only something we have done for the last three years.

The good news is we have some calves due, but not all the cows were able to be conclusively identified as in calf. We have to make some decisions now about what to do next. We also had our two young highland bulls inspected by the vet, and DNA samples taken, which is an important next step towards getting pedigree registration. The vet checks the health of the bulls, and their eyes, teeth, heartbeat and even their testicles were measured! We can now send off the samples and feedback to the Highland Cattle Society and await their approval.

**Joanna Shimwell**



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## Dear All,

As our thoughts turn to Christmas, many of you will be putting together the 'to do' list, and perhaps, fairly high on this list, will be the purchasing of a Christmas tree or retrieving the artificial Christmas tree from storage. Indeed, families around the world signal the beginning of the Christmas season by "putting up the tree".

If you have ever wondered how this particular tradition became so important, the history of the Christmas tree might surprise you. Both the Protestant and Catholic traditions lay claim to the first Christmas tree, while many tie it to ancient pagan rituals.

Protestant tradition credits Martin Luther as the first person to actually decorate a Christmas tree. The evergreen fir, he said, represented the eternal love of God and the steadfastness of their own faith. The candles he decorated it with represented the star that led the Wise Men to Christ.

Alternatively, Catholic tradition has it that the very first Christmas tree was due to an eighth-century English missionary called St. Boniface. Around the time of the Winter Solstice, Boniface witnessed a group of pagans worshipping an old oak tree. Horrified by what he saw as blasphemy, Boniface took an axe and hacked down the tree, demonstrating to the pagans the power

of his God over theirs. A year later, the pagan converts came to celebrate their new faith by decorating the evergreen. This story ties in neatly the pagan roots of tree worship with today's traditional use of the evergreen fir tree.

Clearly, many myths surround the Christmas tree's origin, but if history has taught us anything, it's that the Christmas tree does not belong to one group or one set of beliefs. Instead, it belongs to many. The Christmas tree that you place in your home might be a symbol of your faith, of family tradition, or simply a way to celebrate the season. From a Christian perspective, Christmas without a Christmas tree would be very dull indeed. Not that there were many Christmas trees around on that night in Bethlehem, 2000 years ago!

Apart from what we read in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we know very little detail about the circumstances of Christ's birth, but what we do know is that Christ's birth points the way to be truly human, it lightens up the darkness of our human frailty and failure, and it paints for us God's portrait in human form.

Our Christmas trees also lighten up the darkness, not least the fabulous specimens in our churches, so lovingly decorated by members of our congregations. As you sit in church before a Carol service or on a

Sunday, take a few moments to look at the tree and enjoy it. It too points upwards, drawing our eyes beyond ourselves, and its light and colour enlighten our vision and bring joy to our hearts. That's exactly the point of the Christmas tree, and it is also the point of all our Carol singing and festivities, of present-giving and tinsel, and of feasting and sharing. Christmas needs to enlighten the future with new possibilities for change and for fresh hopes to become reality. Like our trees, it helps us see beyond the everyday and be caught up in a brighter vision, serving to uplift our spirits and show us what is possible when people work together to overcome need, using our skills, energies and resources for the good of others.

So as Christmas approaches in your own home and family, when you take out the decorations and erect the Christmas tree once again, think not only of how it delights the senses, but also of how it can bring hope and change in our world. And long after Christmas has been and gone, let finding those stray pine needles also remind you of the continuing presence of God-with-us, Emmanuel, as the prophet called Jesus. The Christmas trees in our churches will shine out throughout Christmastide and you will be most welcome to join us at any of our Christmas Services. Wherever you are this Christmastide, enjoy the Christmas tree and see in it the promise of change, a light in the darkness, which the birth of the Christ Child brings.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas!

**David Beale,  
Reader at St Giles**

### St. Giles' Churchwardens Contact Details

Richard Carter 07900 980967  
richardcarter155@yahoo.co.uk  
Frank Hammond 07935 873930  
cubanheel26@btinternet.com

*Please monitor the Lychgate  
Notice Board for all latest news*

### 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.

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**7<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2**

10.30am Toy Service (St Giles)  
4pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

**14<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3**

10.30am Eucharist (St Giles) (+A, R)  
4pm Toy/Carol Service (Wardlow)

**21<sup>st</sup> December – Advent 4**

10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)  
4pm Carol Service (St Giles)

**25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

9am Eucharist (Wardlow)  
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)

**28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas 1**

10.30am Benefice Eucharist (Rowsley)

**December in the Garden**

**Lawns:** Dig over areas to be seeded in the spring, clean and overhaul machines and equipment.

**Roses:** Prepare established beds for winter, shorten long shoots to 2.5ft (75cm) to stop wind loosening plants. Collect and burn fallen leaves showing signs of blackspot disease. Complete new planting if conditions allow.

**Herbaceous plants:** Continue tidying borders and digging between plants. Order plants or seeds for spring planting or sowing.

**Dahlias:** Continue checking stored tubers for signs of rot and treat as needed.

**Sweet peas:** Cover frames with matting after frosts to avoid rapid thawing of autumn seedlings.

**Trees and shrubs:** Plant deciduous trees and shrubs in mild weather. Firm soil around the roots. Tie branches of young conifers together with sacking to prevent heavy snow breaking them down.

**Fruit:** Continue pruning and planting in suitable weather. Spray all fruit bushes with winter wash when dormant.

**Vegetables:** Continue winter digging leaving ground rough. Prepare site for next year's runner beans. Lift rhubarb and chicory for forcing.

**General tasks:** Check tubes, corms, onions and other dormant bulbous plants and stored roots and fruits before severe frosts. Provide adequate protection, beware of mice, trap or poison them. Lag outdoor water pipes and taps.



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**Deborah Henley's Pintade à la Normande**

Guinea fowl are found all over sub-Saharan Africa. Their keen eyesight and loud calls make them ideal for alerting people to visitors and uninvited predators. Their meat is moist, and firmer and leaner than chicken, with a slight gamey flavour, and these days is widely available.

This dish was Deborah's contribution to the Longstone

*3lb guinea fowl*

*120g butter*

*2lb Cox apples*

*250ml crème fraîche*

*2 juniper berries or*

*2 green cardamom*

*60ml brandy or*

*preferably Calvados*

*Ladies' French Evening* in January 2024, and is based on a pheasant recipe by Jane Grigson. Apples, cream and brandy form the heart of rich Norman cuisine.

Peel, core and slice the apples, then add to a pan with 60g of butter. Cook over a medium heat until golden, and add the juniper berries or cardamom pods. Melt the other 60g of butter in a separate pan and brown the guinea fowl all over in it.

Put a layer of apples at the bottom of a casserole to match size of the bird, and lay the guinea fowl on top, breast down. Spoon the remaining apples down the sides of the dish. Pour in half the crème fraîche. Put the lid on the casserole and place in an oven at 180°C (Gas Mark 4) for an hour, checking after 50 minutes to see if the bird is cooked.

Increase the oven to 230°C (Gas Mark 8). Remove the casserole from the oven and pour the remaining crème fraîche, followed by the Calvados, over the guinea fowl. Check the seasoning and adjust if necessary, before returning the casserole to the oven for 5 minutes. Enjoy!



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## What's On

**Wednesdays** - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am  
**Wednesdays** - Advent Alfresco Prayers, St Giles' Churchyard 12.30pm (page 11)  
**Fridays** - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50  
**3rd December** - LEAP Men's Cooking Group, GL Village Hall 10am-12 (page 19)  
**3rd December** - WI Christmas Party, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 16)  
**7th December** - Toy Service, St Giles 10.30am (page 7)  
**7th December** - Craft Fair, Ashford Institute 10am-4pm (page 7)  
**10th December** - LEAP Sewing Club, GL Village Hall 10am-4pm (page 19) £10  
**12th-21st December** - Xmas Tree Festival, Bakewell Church 9.30am-4pm (page 7)  
**12th December** - Karlos Kollektive gig, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 19) £12  
**14th December** - LEAP Christmas Crafts, GL Village Hall, 1-4pm (page 8)  
**14th December** - Breakfast with Santa, The Monsal, 8.30am or 10am (page 9) £15  
**16th December** - Cressbrook Band Carols, The Crispin, 7pm (page 9)  
**16th December** - LL History Group Xmas Party, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 14)  
**17th December** - LEAP Book Café, GL Village Hall 2-4pm (page 19)  
**19th December** - Carols, Music and Mulled Wine, LL Chapel 6pm (page 8)  
**21st December** - Micklemas folk music, LL Chapel 2pm (page 8)  
**24th December** - Carols around the tree, Village Green 6.30pm (page 7)  
**3rd January** - Bell ringing demo, Ashford Church 2-4pm (page 4)

### Bakewell Medical Centre

ddicb.adminpeakanddales@nhs.net

Telephone: 01629 816636

#### 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**

**NHS App:** If you have access to the internet you can download the NHS App from your App Store to order repeat medications and access other functions on-line.

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www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

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

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## Best Friends!



Thanks to Ali Plowright for this lovely photo of two of Jim and Michelle Longsdon's Herdwick tups rubbing faces together

### 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:

**Monday 15th December**

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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