UNDER THE EDGE



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

www.undertheedge.net



No. 335 December 2026

ISSN 1466-8211

Open for Business!



Hey guys, we hope to bring the White Lion back to life, with great food, drinks and atmosphere, and we welcome you all to join us on our journey! We started in Wythenshawe, learning the ropes with great Thai street food and great service. Our new menus will hopefully bring you all great pub times and a place for everyone. Go easy on us – it's our first pub!

Rabbie and Mike

December Gardening Notes



Looking back at 2026, it has been quite a challenging year weatherwise. It was very wet early on, and then this was followed by drought and hot weather. However, despite that, I have had some really good fruits and vegetables.

The containers planted up with annual flowers have only just finished flowering with the onset of the first frosts, and the acers' autumn colours seemed more vibrant than ever. The acer in the photo will soon drop its leaves, but the grasses provide a bit of interest through the winter. The allotment has now been tidied up, shredded bark has been spread over the paths between the raised beds, and a good amount of spent compost has been spread over the soil. I've just got cabbage, brussels, kale and a few beetroot left to pick. It is wise to keep a check on any stored fruits, vegetables, bulbs and tubers, and remove any with mould or infection. I shall be ordering seeds for next year, but will not be sowing any till about next February, and that will be seeds that have a long growing season such as onions, leeks and brussels.

The greenhouse plants require very little watering during the winter, and the succulents and cacti none at all. I just use the heater to keep the frost out. I still have a bit of pruning of trees and shrubs to carry out when the weather is suitable – some plants put on a huge amount of growth, such as the cotinus, and I cut it right back every year. I shall also plant a few pansies and violas for some colour through the winter and next spring.

Andy Hanna

A Christmas Truce – 1914

One of the more remarkable stories of the First World War is that of the unofficial Christmas truces of 1914, when British and German soldiers emerged from their trenches to meet their enemies in No Man's Land. These truces were not organised by the military authorities – they developed spontaneously in several places along the Western Front, as soldiers on opposite sides agreed to suspend hostilities, exchange greetings and, in some cases, swap small gifts. There are also accounts of football being played, although these have sometimes been embellished over the years.

What is perhaps less well known is that we have a direct connection with one of these events here in Great Longstone. Captain Hubert Bradshaw Dixon, whose life and death were described in last month's *Under the Edge*, was serving with the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters in France. In January 1915, he returned to Great Longstone on four days' leave, arriving just an hour and a half before his mother died.

During his visit, he spoke to a journalist from the *Derbyshire Times* about conditions at the Front. The interview appeared in the newspaper on 23rd January 1915, just four weeks after Christmas. Hubert described the appalling conditions in the trenches, where continuous rain had turned everything into a sea of mud. His company's forward trench was just 80 yards from the German positions.

He then gave an account of what had happened on Christmas Day, 'On Christmas Day, the Germans made overtures for a local armistice. They came half-way across, and the Sherwoods went out to meet them. They came to an understanding.' The newspaper went on to report that no fighting took place on either Christmas Day or Boxing Day. On the second day, the Germans sat on top of their trenches enjoying a smoke, while the British soldiers did likewise.

Perhaps the most striking part of Hubert's account was his description of the German soldiers they encountered. Many spoke English, having worked in Britain before the war. Some had even been waiters at the Ritz and similar London hotels. According to the newspaper, they 'one and all heartily wished the war was over, making no secret of this fact.'

For a brief period, men who had been trying to kill one another found themselves talking as ordinary people, discovering that they had rather more in common than the war might suggest.

The Christmas truces were not welcomed by senior military commanders. There were concerns that such friendly contact with the enemy could weaken discipline and make soldiers less willing to fight. Orders were issued to discourage and prevent further fraternisation, and nothing on the same scale occurred at Christmas in subsequent years.

For Hubert Dixon and his men, however, the truce was only a brief interruption to the fighting. Within days, they were back in their trenches, and less than three months later, Hubert was killed during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, on 12th March 1915.

His account, preserved in the *Derbyshire Times*, provides a remarkable local connection to one of the best-known episodes of the First World War. It also reminds us that, even in the midst of a terrible conflict, there were moments when the soldiers on opposing sides recognised their shared humanity.

Simon Headington





Rabbie and Mike are hiring – contact Mike on **07712 613234** *or* **rabbiesthailtd@gmail.com** *or pop in to the newly refurbished White Lion!*



The White Lion Great Longstone



A Warm Welcome from Rabbie and Mike

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Death of Mrs Pitt-Dixon, Great Longstone

Thanks to Simon Headington for this transcription of an article in The Derbyshire Times, 23rd January 1915

The death took place on Tuesday, at her residence, Great Longstone, of Mrs Pitt-Dixon, wife of the late Mr Wm Pitt-Dixon, of Great Longstone. The deceased lady, who was in her 79th year, had only been ill a short time and passed peacefully away as above stated, the cause of death being old age. The late Mrs Pitt-Dixon had resided in Great Longstone for 35 years, and she had numerous friends in the village, being of an exceedingly charitable disposition. A staunch Churchwoman, she regularly attended the services at the local Church, rarely being absent from a weekday service.

The deceased lady's husband belonged to an old Cumberland family, and she herself was, before her marriage, Miss Martha Fletcher Rogers, her family being well known in Liverpool. Her brother, Canon Jno. Rogers, is one of the honorary canons at Manchester Cathedral at the present time. Her family consist of Mr W. R. Pitt-Dixon, the elder son who resided with her, Captain Hubert Pitt-Dixon, of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, which is now at the Front, and one daughter, Mrs Longsdon Shaw, of Brighton.

Capt Hubert Pitt-Dixon is due to return to the trenches to-day (Saturday), after having been home on four days' leave, arriving just one and a half hours before the death of his mother. In the course of an interesting chat, Capt Pitt-Dixon, who, despite the hardships of the campaign is looking well, stated that the condition of the trenches was indescribable, the recent continuous rain having made them in a fearful condition. Yet despite all the hardships and difficulties they were encountering the men were bearing the strain well and were remarkably cheerful. Capt Pitt-Dixon, of course, could not tell us where the Sherwoods are, nor enter into any details of the campaign, but he did say that the advance trench of his company is but 80 yards from the German trench, and on Christmas Day the Germans made overtures for a local armistice. They came half-way across, and the Sherwoods went out to meet them. They came to an understanding, and as previously stated in *The Derbyshire Times*, no fighting took place on this day nor on Boxing Day, when the Germans sat on top of their trenches enjoying a smoke, and the British Tommies did likewise in their trenches.

The Captain found that no small number of the Germans had been in this country and could speak our language. Quite a few of them had been waiters at the Ritz and similar hotels in London, and one and all heartily wished the war was over, making no secret of this fact. Capt Pitt-Dixon stated that the men are now receiving plenty of cut tobacco and cigarettes, but what they do want are a few briar pipes and some stationery. Plain postcards and perforated writing blocks are in great demand, and anyone wishing to do the Tommies a good turn should send them this kind of material, and they will earn their gratitude. Talking of tobacco and cigarettes, the Captain stated that among the elder ranks there are a few with a craving for the luxury of a cigar or cheroot occasionally. A bit of thick or thin twist is another want among the Tommies. Here is another chance to help them by supporting *The Derbyshire Times* Tobacco Fund.

In the woollen line the men require mufflers and Balaclava helmets. The latter, said Capt Pitt-Dixon, are very useful, and the men much appreciate them. American ladies, many of whom he does not know, have been very kind to Capt Pitt-Dixon, sending him numerous parcels, which he has greatly appreciated.

Speaking of the progress of the campaign, Capt Pitt-Dixon said they would require many more men before the war would be settled; and every able-bodied man who was in a position to do so ought to offer his services at once.

We welcomed 22 members from the Lathkill Group, Monyash, Youlgrave, Ashford and Chatsworth to our Autumn Group Meeting, starting the evening with an Afternoon Tea provided by our members.

We were then lucky enough to have my daughter, Steph, helping members to paint an item. We had some wonderful creations – egg cups, spoon rests, pencil holder, pan stand, star and bauble – everyone really enjoyed the evening.





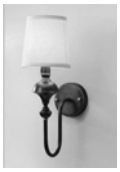
Our December meeting will be the Christmas Party, on Wednesday 2nd December 7.30 in the Village Hall. The Committee will provide the food – remember your Secret Santa Gift and come along for a fun evening.

Zoe McGregor



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New Nursery Opening!



Jake and Jess Coulthard will be opening a new nursery in the Old Infant School Building on Main Street in early 2027.

They'll be taking children from 0-5 years, and will be open 8am-6pm all year round, including school holidays (closed for bank holidays and 1 week at Christmas). There will be 3 spaces for under-2s each day, and the remaining 9 will be available for children aged 2+.

Contact Jake Coulthard on **info@leafandtwig.co.uk** or **07756 306518** for details.

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

Christmas Eve 6.30-7pm





Join PB Theatricals' Christmas Ceilidh at the Hathersage Memorial Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 20th December featuring live music from the Well Dressed Band!

A Ceilidh is traditional Scottish Dancing. The dances will be called by a professional caller so you will be guided through the dances.

Event doors open at 1:30pm, dancing will be from 2pm-5pm. A bar will be available with both soft and alcoholic drinks for sale.

Tickets are £15 for adults, £10 for children, available from our website **pbtheatricals.org**. Money raised will go towards supporting PB Theatricals' 2027 productions as well as our transition to charitable status. Many Longstonians of all ages have taken part in their popular Gilbert and Sullivan performances, most notably Michael and Katy Beale, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, who have taken part ever since 2009, when it was formed.

Liddy Buswell

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!

Xmas & New Year Opening Hours

Mon 21st and Tues 22nd 5-11pm
Wed 23rd 12-3pm, 5-11pm
Xmas Eve 12-10.30pm (food 12-8.30pm)
Xmas Day closed
Boxing Day 12-9pm (food 12-7.30pm)
Sun 27th 12-10pm (food 12-7.30pm)
Mon 28th 12-9pm (food 12-7.30pm)
Tues 29th 5-10pm (food 5-8.30pm)
Wed 30th Dec 12-11pm
New Year's Eve 12-11pm
New Year's Day 12-9pm



The Packhorse Inn
Little Longstone

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

Mon-Wed closed
Thu-Fri 5-11 (food to 8.15)
Sat 12-11 (food to 8.30)
Sun 12-10 (food to 7.45)

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

Check website or Facebook for latest details and to book tables

packhorselongstone.co.uk
☎ 01629 640471

The Fairy on Top of the Tree

I have a fairy on top of the tree
Who's known better days as well you can see
She's only one wing
The poor little thing
And her leg's broken off at the knee

She no longer has knickers to cover her bum
Her hand has been crushed so she hasn't a thumb
She's missing an eye
There's a hold in her thigh
And the paint has peeled off round her tum

I could use the bright star from the box by the bed
You'll probably think I've gone soft in the head
Well, the fairy is mine
And she lives in this rhyme
So she'll be there as long as it's read

Su Woollen

Calling All Thornhills!

Can any reader help? I am an author and family historian, and I am writing about a handwritten recipe book begun in Sheffield in 1860. My work has brought me to the Thornhill family papers at Derbyshire Record Office, which include recipe books kept at Great Longstone.

I would like to reproduce a few of their pages in my book, and I am trying to reach the right person in the family to ask for permission. The trail points to the descendants of Robert Thornhill (1892-1973), author of *Longstone Notes*, or to those of his younger brother John. That branch had moved to Norton, near Doncaster, by the mid-1890s, so the line I am looking for may have left the Peak altogether.

I am already in touch with one family representative through the Local History Group, and would be very glad of any further pointers. My email address is **helen@helenparkerdrabble.com**.

Helen Parker-Drabble











Monster of a Day at The Monsal









From muddy miles to spooky shenanigans, 31st October was quite a day! The Monsal kicked things off with the Monsal Mash Fell Run, with runners, fancy dress and the one and only Mullet Man leading the Halloween madness across the hills. Then, as day turned to night, the party moved indoors with INDIE:CISION taking to the stage and rocking The Monsal with a fantastic night of live music, dancing and Halloween mischief! A huge thank you to all our runners, revellers, fancy-dress ghouls and everyone who joined us along the way. Two events, one brilliant day, and memories to last well beyond Halloween. **Lorraine Statham**

School Governor Vacancy

Longstone Church of England Primary School is looking for a Foundation Governor to join the governing board of our voluntary-aided primary school. Our school sits in the heart of our community and provides a nurturing place for children to shine.

We are particularly keen to hear from people who are not parents or carers of pupils at the school, as this group is well represented on the board. You should be comfortable upholding the Christan values of the school.

The role involves attending four board meetings, and three committee meetings per year, preparing for discussions and undertaking relevant induction and training. It's a great opportunity to contribute to your community, and share and gain skills through being part of a board. We welcome interest from all ages and backgrounds.

Please contact the clerk to the governors, Fiona Swain, at **fionaswain@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk** to find out more about the role, express your interest or to have a chat with the chair of governors, myself.

Chasca Twyman



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The Monsal Mash

This was the first staging of the Monsal Mash, part of this year's Limestone Series along with Ilam Three Peaks, Litton Christmas Cracker and Moon River. I've not done much fell racing this year, and as I was casting around, I came across this. It was nearby and not that long (9.5km/500m climb), and I ignored the 'A' race categorisation (not less than 50m climb per km). I signed up, and a few days before the race received not only the race instructions, but also a geology essay about the course, with the promise of a quiz at the post-race prize-giving.

Race day dawned with a mild hangover, and the realisation that someone had ransacked the car overnight, thanks to a fault that means it unlocks itself from time to time. I grabbed some car park money and my Fell Runners Association kit and set off, forgetting to either put contact lenses in or take my non-varifocal specs.

I turned up nice and early, used some actual public toilets (a novelty for someone who lives in Sheffield), collected my dibber and looked at the map. Lots of contour lines. The start was by the river underneath Monsal Head viaduct. I stood with some other runners looking at the map and thinking: 'Checkpoint 3 is up there? Oh hell!' I distracted myself by looking at some of the fancy dress, including an excellent 'axe embedded in head' lady.

The start was a narrow path beneath the viaduct, which eventually emerged on the Monsal Trail. Some runners must have taken another route, as they appeared from a different angle, but we all diverted to the right at the mouth of Cressbrook Tunnel and set off round the promontory that the tunnel cuts under. It's a steep camber on a narrow path with lots of loose limestone, and my Mudclaws did not like it at all, so I was glad when it was over. We emerged above the trail on the opposite side, then repeated the manoeuvre over Litton Tunnel and arrived at Checkpoint 1, by a little cave. A brief stint off the trail led to the start of the first big climb, up to the summit of the race at the imaginatively named 'High Field'. It wasn't too horrendous a climb over moorland and field, before a quick descent and a left into the spooky, dead straight High Dale, which I have definitely run along in the Cressbrook Crawl. Checkpoint 2 done. I was running with a couple of other people at this point, and all of a sudden we noticed, across the valley to our right, a line of tiny ants crawling up a giant hill. 'Don't look!', said a marshal.



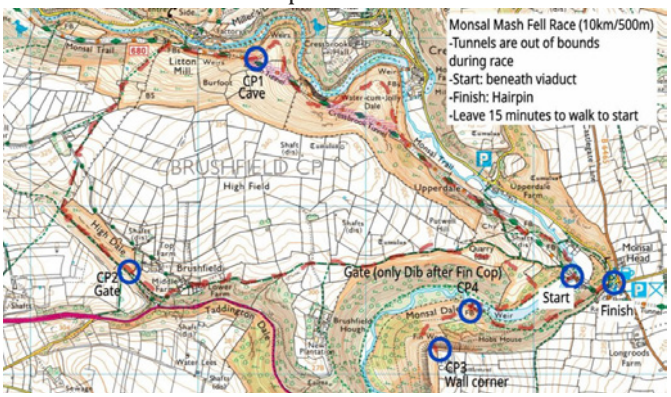
A field of ankle-breaking clay mud, with some uninterested cows, heralded a precipitous and quite slow descent to the valley bottom, not far from where we'd started, and we ran happily through the riverside meadows until we came to the bridge. At first it wasn't too bad – a little path, then a steep but short climb through woodland, then a T-junction where we joined the contraflow with runners coming the other way. Then on to the hill. Brutal – over 40% (peaking at 49.5% according to Strava), and loose limestone gravel covered in a thin coating of mud, moss and the faeces of some daredevil animal – my hand went in it as I held on to the hill for dear life.



To add to the sense of doom, a man with a cleaver embedded in his head looked down ominously on the struggling racers, poking out of the horizon like something from a Ben Wheatley film. It turned out he was quite a nice chap, and Checkpoint 3 was out of the way. I paused a moment to look down at the start line 150m below, then set off on a slippy-slidey slow descent, falling on my backside fewer times than at least some of the runners in front of me. As I got to the bottom, a sinister cloaked figure with no face approached me. It was the Grim Sweeper! Very impressive, but I think he should have been disqualified – the scythe is clearly a walking pole!

'Oh, that'll be it for the climbs,' I thought to myself, having not looked at the map properly. 'We'll just be back to the start line now.' No. No sooner had we hit the valley floor than we were climbing again. I found a bit of oomph and passed a couple of people, and as we finally emerged at Monsal Head car park, I was just behind Anne Hegarty from Totley.

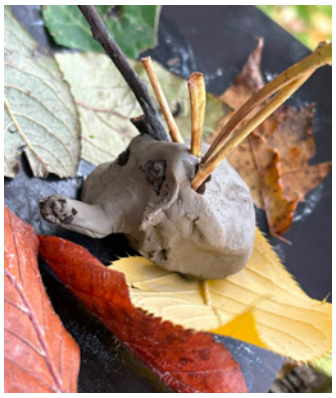
I really enjoyed this race, though I found it very tough. I finished near the back (as usual in fell races this year) in 164th place with 1:40.11, but at least I wasn't the last 50-year-old this time, which was nice. The marshals were a good laugh and several had entered into the Halloween spirit – there was another reaper, aforesaid man with a cleaver in his head, and a bloody butcher. The scenery was breathtaking too. I almost never take photos during races but I couldn't resist a couple in this one.



The winners were Alex Raynard (Matlock AC) in 48.56 and Sally Fawcett (Dark Peak) in 1:05.29. I didn't stick around for the prize-giving, because I was starving and the food queue was long. I now regret not finding out whether there really was a geology quiz, and also not seeing the excellent prizes (sacks of spuds! Jack O'Lanterns!). I'll just have to do it again next year.

Matt Broadhead

Longstone C of E School News

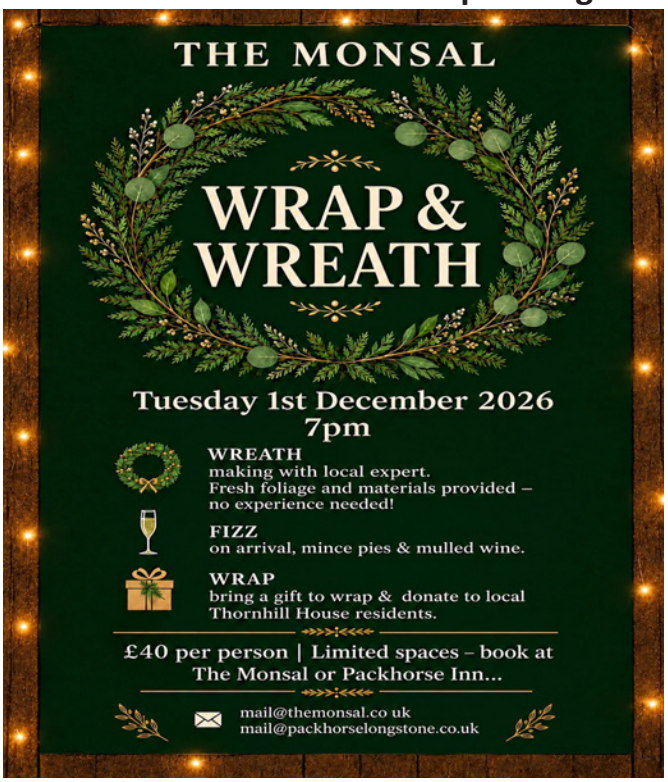




Outdoor learning is back – making hedgehogs out of fallen leaves and twigs. We talked about hibernation, why the leaves had fallen, and what season it was.

Forget pickleball! After half term, the headmaster, Mr Knight, introduced children to Spike Ball.The photo shows a group of Eagles children trying it out for the first time.

Upcoming Events at The Monsal









Christmas Toy Service in St Giles

Owain Wyn Evans, the Radio 2 DJ, cycled 400 miles from Scotland, across to Northern Ireland and then back to England and Wales. The weather was cold and the hills were very steep. His calves were sore, not to mention his back! He isn't sporty and had to train hard for the ride. All of this was for Children in Need, and he has raised several millions through the generousity 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 on 6th December at 10.30am 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

Little Longstone Website

Little Longstone Parish Meeting now has its own website:

littlelongstoneparishmeeting.gov.uk

On this website, you can find agendas and minutes for all past meetings from 1894-1945 and 2002-26, as well as useful local information about the area, plus full details of the Meetings' finances and policies.

Simon Headington, Deputy Parish Clerk

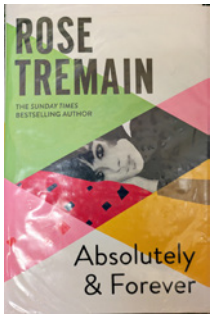
Live Bus Times Online!

Both the Great Longstone Parish Council and Little Longstone Parish Meeting websites now have new entries under **Quick Links** towards the bottom of their home pages, which give live updates showing when the next buses will be passing though the villages throughout the day.

greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk
littlelongstoneparishmeeting.gov.uk

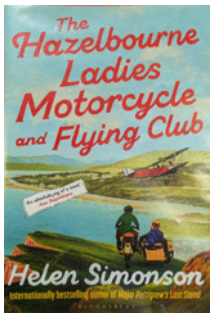
Simon Headington

Bakewell Library Recommends...



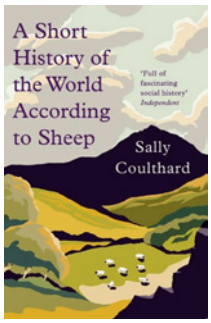
Absolutely and Forever by Rose Tremain. Marianne is fifteen when she falls helplessly and absolutely in love with Simon. Simon owns a Morris Minor, is in his final year at school, and has a dazzling future ahead of him. Desperate to escape the stifling 1950s suburbs she has been raised in, Marianne feels sure she will be able to find true happiness with him. However, a twist of fate sees Simon's glittering future dashed, and with it, Marianne's dreams. He flees the country and Marianne, realising she will now have to make a life of her own, moves to London determined to reinvent herself. But Marianne cannot let go of that first all-encompassing love, and all the while Simon is in Paris, nursing a secret that will alter everything.

This is a very character-driven book. Marianne is full of fascinating contradictions, yet I grew to love her over the course of the story. Tremain's evocation of growing up in the 50s and 60s, and of being a lovestruck teenager, is vivid and steeped in nostalgia. I read this as part of a book group, and the setting and themes of this short novel gave us plenty to discuss. I've read many of Tremain's works, and this one, for me, is among her best. **Rating 5/5**



The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson. It is the summer of 1919 and Constance Haverhill is without prospects. Now that all the men have returned from the front, she has been asked to give up her cottage and her job at the estate she helped to run during the war. While she looks for a position as a bookkeeper or (horror) a governess, she's sent as a lady's companion to an old family friend who is convalescing at a seaside hotel. Despite having only weeks to find a permanent home, Constance is swept up in the social whirl of Hazelbourne-on-Sea and its colourful inhabitants, most notably, Poppy Wirrall. Poppy, the daughter of a land-owning baronet, wears trousers, operates a taxi and delivery service to employ local women and runs a ladies' motorcycle club (to which she plans to add flying lessons). She and her friends enthusiastically welcome Constance into their circle.

This book is an enjoyable blend of comedy, drama, and history. The author vividly captures a largely forgotten, simpler way of life from over a century ago, while also acknowledging the discrimination faced by women and the racial prejudices that were prevalent at the time. I felt the social attitudes of the era were portrayed convincingly, and the characters were engaging throughout. My only slight criticism is that I felt it was over long. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable and rewarding read. **Rating 4/5**



A Short History of the World According to Sheep by Sally Coulthard. From the plains of ancient Mesopotamia to the rolling hills of medieval England to the vast sheep farms of modern-day Australia, sheep have been central to the human story. Starting with our Neolithic ancestors' first forays into sheep-rearing nearly 10,000 years ago, these remarkable animals have fed us, clothed us, changed our diet and languages, helped us to win wars, decorated our homes, and financed the conquest of large swathes of the Earth. Sally Coulthard weaves the rich and fascinating story of sheep into a vivid and colourful tapestry, thickly threaded with engaging anecdotes and remarkable ovine facts, whose multiple strands reflect the deep penetration of these woolly animals into every aspect of human society and culture.

I chose this book on a whim because, living in the countryside, sheep are part of everyday life and the topic intrigued me. What I discovered was a fascinating, thoroughly researched, and engaging read. Accessible and informative throughout, it exceeded my expectations and is a book I would happily recommend to others. **Rating 5/5**

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STARTERS

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MAINS

- Roast turkey & yorkie stack with all the trimmings GFA
- Veggie sausage & yorkie stack with all the trimmings (V)
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PUDDINGS

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Sunday 6th December 10am-4pm

in aid of

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Grass-fed beef
Pigs in blankets
Pork, lamb 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
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Frank Parker in his time at the BBC...



...and at home today

The name and face of Frank Parker will be familiar to anyone who has been living in Great Longstone for at least the last 25 years. He was instantly identifiable, video camera slung around his neck, at all events and activities in village life, marking significant occasions or the changing seasons. Frank is the village story-teller, thanks to whom so much of Longstone life and local history has been recorded. He was unfortunate enough to suffer a stroke in 2023 that brought an end to much of his active participation, but has not diminished his enthusiasm for the recording of local history.

Frank was born in 1948 in Luton, where his father and mother had settled after the war. Frank's father had been born in Chesterfield, where his grandmother still lived at that time, so as a child, Frank visited regularly and grew to know and love the Peak District. After school in Luton, Frank went to Sheffield University to study Mathematics. He was initially drawn to Sheffield because of the start of BBC local radio services, and he had hopes then of becoming involved with radio drama production. It didn't quite work out like that. But with his interest in local radio and local history, he and a university colleague, Ralph Adam, made a programme for Radio Sheffield about the building of the Derwent, Ladybower and Howden Reservoirs. He interviewed the local people about the impact this had made on their lives, enabling them to tell their own stories.

After a further year of study at Manchester University to get an MSc in Statistics and Probability Theory, Frank secured a job with the BBC in Belfast, where he worked on outside broadcasts from 1973-76. The 'Troubles' were of course a backdrop to daily life, but as he was not part of the News Team, he did not feel himself to be in any particular danger. Promotion came in 1976, with the opportunity to move from Belfast to the BBC in Manchester. He was looking for somewhere to live, and as his sister was living in Little Longstone at the time, he was naturally drawn back to this area. Eventually, he settled in Great Longstone, where he still lives now.

At that stage of his career, Frank was part of a small outside broadcast unit, consisting of a cameraman plus sound and lighting engineers. Frank was the sound engineer, but as he recalls, working so closely with this group over many years enabled him to learn to do all of the jobs involved. Their team worked throughout the eighties and nineties all over the UK, but they also had opportunities to work overseas in Australia, the West Indies and Indonesia. Most of the work involved filming sporting events, including many football matches. Apparently, the better the football team, the easier it becomes to know just where to place the microphones, all the better to catch the goals being scored! Sometimes, their work involved liaison with the Youth Department of the BBC, and aspiring pop groups such as the Spice Girls were filmed. Frank and the team also worked with Kate Humble on some schools' programmes in Liverpool, when she was a good deal less famous than she is now.

By the turn of the century, all the heavy equipment used in outside broadcasting began to change, and the BBC started to slim down its staff. In-house employees became freelancers. New technology such as LED lighting and digital cameras meant that the old three-man team could be reduced to a sole cameraman. Frank had learned well from his colleagues, and could operate as a one-man band. He began to film local life, and many of his films that we have seen at the Village Hall date from this time. In 2003, a request came from the Media Archive of Central England asking for home movies and records of local life, particularly from some of the rural areas of Derbyshire. A lottery grant was forthcoming for the project – enough to buy a suitable camera, laptop and a copy of the completed film (DVD or VHS) for every household in the village. Frank, along with the Longstone Local History Group, was the key manager of the project. The finished product is entitled Village Video 2005 – it includes much of the day-to-day life of the Longstones, with various villagers making bread, marmalade and wine. This was followed in 2012 with a film to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, made jointly with Lizzie Long, Wendy Long's daughter.



In 2020, Frank was drawn back to tell the story on film that had first captured his imagination in 1970, about the flooding of the Derwent Valley. He returned to his original interviews, now supplemented with more new material. This film, called Memoirs of a Lost Valley, can be viewed on YouTube.

Now that we are well into the 21st century, it seems that the business of recording village life and telling its stories is being carried out very differently. Since he had his stroke, we seldom see Frank out and about. The regular episodes of life here, such as the Well Dressing, the small celebration at the War Memorial in November, and the School Fete are certainly still recorded, but mainly on people's personal phones, and then perhaps viewed on platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram or Facebook. Some would regard this as a more democratic way of recording village activities, with no single definitive record of Longstone life, even if there ever was such a thing.

As yet, there is no sign of anybody stepping forward to make another documentary of village life. In Frank's view, the important thing is that recordings are made and tales of activities and changes in the Longstone villages are still told.

Janet Byrne

Of Bards and Bees

The beekeeping year is pretty much over in Longstone. How I put the colonies to bed in autumn can have a huge impact on next year's colony's health and honey crop. Over winter, female worker bees cluster together in a vibrating, moving ball around their Queen. They take it in turns to get warm in the centre, feed at the edge, then return to the bee-warm centre.

Drone boy bees have been killed and evicted. Hard-earned, precious winter honey stores are for survival of just the worker bees and queens. 'The best thing for bees in winter is bees' – the stronger the colony in autumn, the better their chance at surviving winter and a good strong start in spring.

Each colony needs plenty of honey stores. Some beekeepers feed sugar or fondant – I don't. White sugar does not have the nutrients bees need for good health. I heft (weigh) each hive, and leave my bees all the honey they need for winter, donating honey from strong hives to weaker hives, to give them all their best chance.

Varroa is a mite that can live on and weaken bees and their brood, a bit like fleas on dogs. Beekeepers routinely treat for varroa in autumn, and I use an organic varroa treatment as needed. This year, however, I bought a 'Bee Gym'. As I was buying beeswax candle-making equipment from my beekeeping supplier, an adorable video caught my eye: bees thoroughly enjoying grooming themselves at length, on various wires and posts, specially designed to dislodge the pesky mites. Irresistible not to try it!

Mice look for an indoor refuge in the colder months. Putting mouse guards over the hive entrances will hopefully save us from opening the hives to a nasty surprise of chewed leaves and mouse poo among the frames and comb in the spring!

A little song sung its way into my head and down my pen, all about my beloved bees and my dear departed bee-keeping mentor. It had its first public hearing at the Crispin live music session, where it received the usual gentle improvised melodic accompaniment of musicians present...

The Beekeeper of Longstone

My mentor kept the fiercest bees and wouldn't let me work with smoke.
He laughed when the bees got angry, and if I got stung it was the greatest joke.
I learnt to fasten my bee-suit well,
No gaps in the zips, three layers, hot and sweaty as hell...

I am the beekeeper o' Longstone
Old and wizened, gnarled and slow,
With sticky hands and timeless patience,
I tend the hives and watch them grow.
I'm the beekeeper o' Longstone, packing pollen, cutting comb,
My mentor's voice still in the apiary, when I'm in the hives, I'm not alone.

They say that you should tell the bees, when a baby's born or someone dies.
My mentor died, I told the bees, alone among his many hives,
I mixed the terror and the pain,
With the sweet smell of honey and the bees they buzzed the same....

Honeybees can recognise your face and feel your heart,
So be kind, calm and gentle, before you pull their hive apart.
Bees are whizzing fast, I move slow,
They're feisty, quick to anger, I keep my energy low.

Worker bees bring pollen in, to feed their baby bees: their Queen's in lay.
A gentle puff of chamomile smoke, the hive hum changes, hear what they say...
Thousands of tiny wings make one hive's voice,
I listen quietly... then make my careful choice.

The hive lid lifts off easily, the top box is heavy and glued,
Sealed on with wax and propolis, to protect their precious winter food.
Wax hexagons filled with fragrant gold,
And as much multicoloured pollen as they can hold.

I am the beekeeper o' Longstone
Old and wizened, gnarled and slow,
With golden hands and amber patience,
I tend the hives and the honey flow.
I'm the beekeeper o' Longstone, packing pollen, cutting comb,
He's still with me in the apiary, my heart is warm, I feel at home.

The nights grow long, cool and damp, time to put the bees to bed.
They'll cluster tight for winter, keeping warm, taking turns to be fed.
I heft each hive to feel what's spare for taking,
Leave enough honey on to feed them well till spring.



If you have any songs, tunes, music, stories, or dances to share, in a friendly, non-judgemental live music night, where anything goes, please do come and join us. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the back room of the Crispin. You will get a warm welcome, and your generosity and bravery will be rewarded with the very best (gluten-free) Crispin chips on the house!

Don't forget to order your Great Longstone organically produced honey and hive products for your loved ones (and yourselves!) for Christmas – available in Heather's shop, or from me on **07702 209869** or **hopevalleyherbs@icloud.com**.

Anna Dutch





Great Longstone Cricket Club 2026 Review



As we all know, 2026 was amongst the hottest years ever experienced in the UK, and so provided the ideal backdrop for those of us who enjoy the noble game of cricket. I think it is fair to claim that GLCC rose to the challenge of providing excellent opportunities for girls and boys, women and men of all ages and abilities to demonstrate their skill, enthusiasm and enjoyment of the game of cricket. Here are the highlights of the cricketing year at GLCC.

Let's start with the stars of tomorrow – the All Stars and Dynamos. These are the 5- to 8-year-old All Stars and the 9- to 11-year-old Dynamos. We started the programmes in 2025, and by the end of this 2026 season, we had 40 youngsters participating on Saturday mornings from May to July in batting, bowling and fielding drills, interspersed with plenty of drinks and sweets to keep energy and enthusiasm at the required level. Much credit must go to the volunteer coaches Ian Bunting, Pete and Kate Jennings, Nigel and Quinn Garfield, Richard and Katrina Roberts and Tea Hut supremo Nicci Bunting for turning up every week and providing patient direction for the players, as well as the aforementioned refreshments.

Hopefully, some of the older Dynamos, who have their twelfth birthdays in the early months of 2027, will retain their zest for the game and progress through to the under-14 group of girls and boys who train on a Monday evening. GLCC is aiming to develop a pathway from the age-group cricket through to the open-age adult game. The first step along this pathway will be to establish our under-14 squad of players, and then to line up some games against other clubs during 2027. We have an option to join the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF) development league, and we are currently considering this.

Monday evenings were the busiest nights of the week on the Rec during 2026. In addition to the under-14s at 5pm, the women's squad training session commenced at 6pm, alongside the men's nets. Some Monday nights saw close on 40 cricketers on the Rec over the course of the three hours from 5pm. The women's team emerged from the Monday training sessions, and during the course of the 2026 season, they developed into a promising unit. Early season success in the softball version of the game against Grindleford encouraged the team to participate in DCF women's softball cricket festival at Darley Dale on a glorious Sunday afternoon in June, and also play hosts to a softball team from Apperknowle in July, and finally a return fixture at Grindleford. The opposition prevailed in all of these matches, but the experience gained will definitely set the women up for success in 2027, when they will be competing in a competitive softball league on Sunday mornings.

The men's team played most of their matches midweek, with a few longer-format games on three or four Sundays in July and August. It would be fair to say that they made a slow start, with no wins after four fixtures. However, the men lost only twice in the remaining twelve fixtures. There were many notable performances with bat and ball, but the standout performances undoubtedly featured 16-year-old George Askew. George must be the scourge of Hathersage, following him scoring unbeaten centuries twice within seven weeks, as GLCC visited and defeated Hathersage at their picturesque ground. His feats were recognised at the end-of-season pie and pea supper held at The Canteen at Monsal Head, where Club Captain Pete Smith presented George with an engraved tankard.



Anyone wanting to get involved with cricket at GLCC is most welcome to come to the Rec on any Monday evening at 6pm from April in 2027, and join in at the nets or the practice sessions. We will be running the All Stars and Dynamos programmes from May next year, and information on how to enrol will be published in March 2027. We are planning to have a full diary of competitive cricket for men and women throughout the summer of next year, and we would be delighted to welcome spectators to these matches. We have been well supported by LASRA in 2026, most noticeably with the refurbishment and repainting of the changing rooms and Tea Hut, and we were overwhelmed with the support from many villagers and club members in completing this undertaking this year. Thank you to all involved, and we look forward to making more progress in 2027.

Martin Pinder

Lest We Forget



75 residents attended the War Memorial Service on Remembrance Sunday, led by David Beale



Stefan Cox-Labo leading the choir procession to the War Memorial



Peter Shimwell reading the names of the fallen in the two World Wars



Jane Rigby laying a wreath on behalf of Great Longstone Parish Council

Tread Softly marks Remembrance Day

We walk on Wednesdays each week, meeting and leaving from St Giles' lychgate at 10.30 am. Please join us – everyone is welcome – you don't need to come each week. Come when you can, or just join us for coffee and cake in the church where we finish around 11.30am. We walk at a very moderate pace – being in nature in good company is more important than steps covered! This month, we hope to include some Advent Celtic prayers similar to last year. Please also see Derbyshire Health Walks online for more walking options to suit your taste and walking preferences.

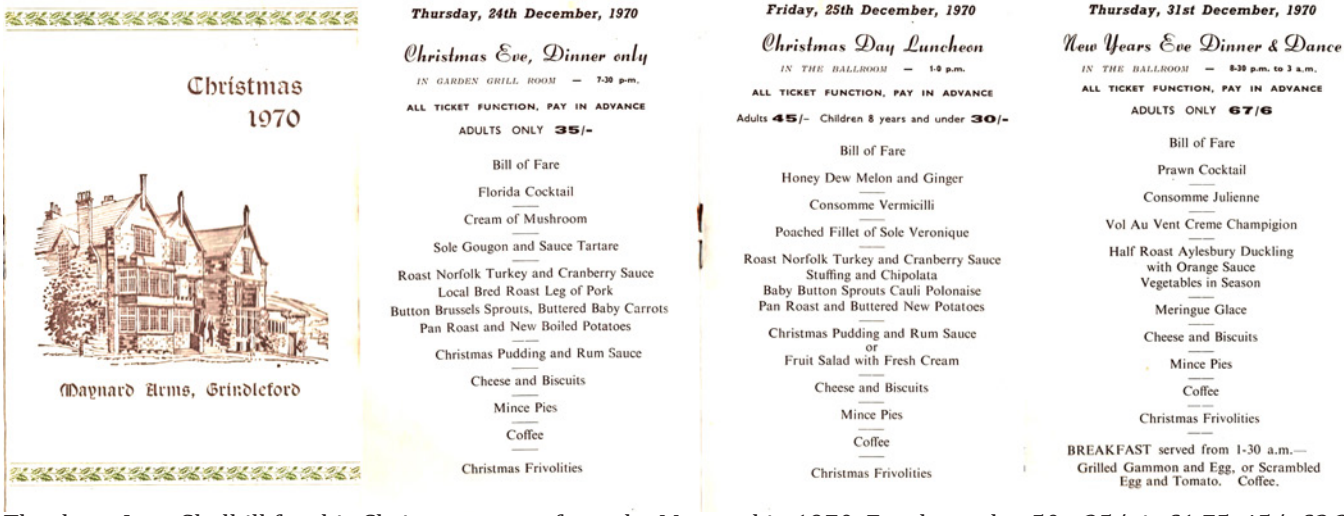
It seemed fitting on Remembrance Day, at our walkers' request, that we stopped for some short prayers together. A few minutes before 11am, we arrived at the old Longstone station via the Monsal trail.This place must have featured prominently in the departures and arrivals of service men and women in the hundred years between its opening in 1863 and closure in 1962.

Marcus brought Robert Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* to share. He read the third and fourth verses, giving some context to the well known epitaph. Members of the public passing by us also respectfully noted the silence, marked by the Bakewell siren. In this chaotic world, it was a privileged opportunity for reflection and to pay respect for those who have given their lives for others.

Alison Waltho



Christmas Past



Christmas
1970

Maynard Arms, Grindleford

Thursday, 24th December, 1970

Christmas Eve, Dinner only

IN GARDEN GRILL ROOM — 7-30 p.m.

ALL TICKET FUNCTION, PAY IN ADVANCE

ADULTS ONLY 35/-

Bill of Fare

Florida Cocktail

Cream of Mushroom

Sole Gougon and Sauce Tartare

Roast Norfolk Turkey and Cranberry Sauce
Local Bred Roast Leg of Pork
Button Brussels Sprouts, Buttered Baby Carrots
Pan Roast and New Boiled Potatoes

Christmas Pudding and Rum Sauce

Cheese and Biscuits

Mince Pies

Coffee

Christmas Frivolities

Friday, 25th December, 1970

Christmas Day Luncheon

IN THE BALLROOM — 1-0 p.m.

ALL TICKET FUNCTION, PAY IN ADVANCE

Adults 45/- Children 8 years and under 30/-

Bill of Fare

Honey Dew Melon and Ginger

Consomme Vermicilli

Poached Fillet of Sole Veronique

Roast Norfolk Turkey and Cranberry Sauce
Stuffing and Chipolata
Baby Button Sprouts Cauli Polonaise
Pan Roast and Buttered New Potatoes

Christmas Pudding and Rum Sauce
or
Fruit Salad with Fresh Cream

Cheese and Biscuits

Mince Pies

Coffee

Christmas Frivolities

Thursday, 31st December, 1970

New Years Eve Dinner & Dance

IN THE BALLROOM — 8-30 p.m. to 3 a.m.

ALL TICKET FUNCTION, PAY IN ADVANCE

ADULTS ONLY 67/6

Bill of Fare

Prawn Cocktail

Consomme Julienne

Vol Au Vent Creme Champigion

Half Roast Aylesbury Duckling
with Orange Sauce
Vegetables in Season

Meringue Glace

Cheese and Biscuits

Mince Pies

Coffee

Christmas Frivolities

BREAKFAST served from 1-30 a.m.—
Grilled Gammon and Egg, or Scrambled
Egg and Tomato. Coffee.

Thanks to Jean Gledhill for this Christmas menu from the Maynard in 1970. For the under-50s, 35/- is £1.75. 45/- £2.25 and 67/6 is £3.38. This year, the three-course festive menu on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day costs £39, and New Year's Eve four-course dinner and dance £85 – an increase of nearly 25 times in 56 years. That's inflation for you!

The Enchanted Pumpkin Farm at Hassop Family Farm









This Autumn, Hassop Family Farm welcomed hundreds of families to its Enchanted Pumpkin Farm, creating a memorable seasonal experience filled with magic, adventure and plenty of Halloween fun.

Visitors were welcomed by the rather extraordinary Wizard Bramblewick, who flew in on his broomstick especially for the occasion, before embarking on an enchanting experience with magic around every corner. Highlights included live storytelling in the giant Tipi tent with our resident witches, spell casting, spooky potion creations and the opportunity to meet some magnificent real-life owls. Young witches & wizards could also explore the world of herbology, take aim at ghosts during our tractor and trailer ride, and enjoy plenty of outdoor play and adventure.

With delicious food, our popular spooky milkshakes and a wonderful atmosphere throughout the farm, there was something for everyone to enjoy. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the incredible feedback from visiting families, and seeing so many happy faces enjoying the experience made all the hard work worthwhile.

Following the enchanted events, we opened our pumpkin field for our popular Pick Your Own (PYO) pumpkin season. We planted our seeds back in May, growing more than 25 different pumpkin varieties right here on the farm using organic methods, without chemical sprays. As part of our school visits programme, it was particularly special to welcome nursery and school groups in May to help plant the seeds, before returning in October to see how their pumpkins had grown. It was a wonderful opportunity for children to experience the journey from seed to harvest first-hand.

It has been a fantastic autumn, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who visited and supported us. We are already looking forward to next year and welcoming even more families to experience the magic of Hassop, discover our homegrown pumpkins and make special autumn memories of their own.

Charlotte Dilks

Bakewell Christmas Tree Festival

Bakewell's annual Christmas Tree Festival will take place at All Saint's Parish Church, Bakewell from 11th to 20th December. The church will be full of trees, real, artificial and created, all of which will represent and celebrate differing aspects of our Bakewell community. Businesses, charities, schools, churches and local organisations will all be represented.

The festival will be opened by Bakewell Mayor, Cllr James Berresford, during a short opening service at 7pm on Thursday 10th December. This service will be followed with wine and nibbles. The church will then be open daily from 9.30am-4pm (Sundays 12-4pm). The festival will close with a community carol service at 6pm on Sunday 20 December. Delicious homemade refreshments will be served daily in the Open Door café from 10am-3.30pm (Sundays 12.30-3.30pm).

At 11.15am on Saturday 12th December, the ever-popular Bel Canto choir will perform a seasonal coffee concert. Entry is free, with any donations going towards the ongoing cost of maintaining the church. The church will look, and smell, spectacular. The tree festival is a joyous Bakewell tradition to welcome Christmas and is not to be missed!

Dot Bushen

What's in a Name?

The lead story in last month's UTE reminded me, as someone who has lived in the village all my life, and attended the school from 1961-67, that in those days, that area of Great Longstone was always known as the Miers.

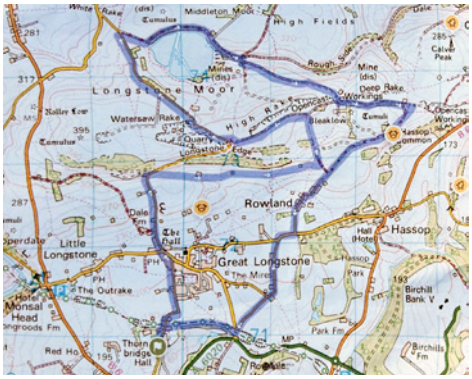
Longstone Lane was Shady Lane, often just Shady to locals. In addition, what everyone refers to as Longstone Edge was referred to as Longstone Moor. Perhaps Edge is best – *Under The Moor* magazine doesn't have such a nice ring to it.

Moving onto another name – the land where we live, which for many years was part of Dale Farm, was always referred to as Dagner (that's what it sounded like). I have never seen it written anywhere, until last year, when my niece Joanna and her partner Nick unearthed some papers written by my grandfather, Isaac B Shimwell. He referenced the fields by their acreage and in which parish the land lay. His spelling was Daggoner. Is anyone able to shed any light on this?

Further afield, Youlgreave has become Youlgrave, and Oaker become Oker. All interesting and sometimes more than a little puzzling. Years ago, spellings often varied due to pronunciation and lack of literacy. We need a new excuse for place name changes now!

Peter Shimwell

Along the Trail







Endurance GB organises rides from 16km to international challenges of 160km. It's a friendly, supportive community, allowing you to explore new places with your horse on safe, marked routes, building confidence and partnership, in which you progress at your own pace. On 7th November, the Derbyshire branch organised a 16km loop for 24 riders from Thornbridge Hall, where Jim and Emma Harrison kindly let them park their horseboxes and trailers. Julie Brown's horse had an injured fetlock, so she volunteered to be a marshal on the platform of Longstone station. Riders set off in groups of two or three at a time, so as not to inconvenience dog walkers and other users of the Trail. It's the first time they've been to our area, but having found how beautiful it is, it won't be the last! See **endurancegb.co.uk** for more information.





The 5km Bakewell Park Run normally takes place every Saturday at 9am from Hassop Station towards Bakewell, but on 24th October, there was another event on this section, so it switched direction, going from Hassop to the first bridge past Longstone Station towards the Headstone Tunnel. It was a mad, slightly surreal dash with loads of dogs and babes in buggies joining in the fun. The marshals, accompanied by their dogs (Amy with Jasper, Ruby and her grandfather Richard with Nigel), were there to cheer on the runners and make sure they turned round at the cone and headed back to Hassop.

Longstone Local History Group

Our meeting on 17th November featured guest speaker Chris Milner from the National Trust Longshaw Estate. Chris's talk enlightened us about the workings of the Estate and his important role as Area Ranger. Working in partnership with other regional organisations, they are responsible for protecting and regenerating the estate's moorlands, encouraging biodiversity and supporting local wildlife.

Some of the greatest challenges include planting seeds, sphagnum moss and tree saplings, as well as creating and restoring peat bogs across the open moorland. These efforts are made even more challenging by the very high risk of wildfires, which are often caused by irresponsible human activity.

Our next meeting is our annual Christmas Quiz with drinks and snacks, which will be held in the Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 15th December.

Andre Smith

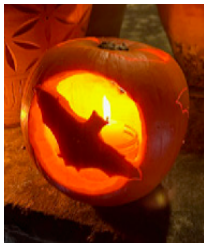
Remember, Remember the Fifth of November



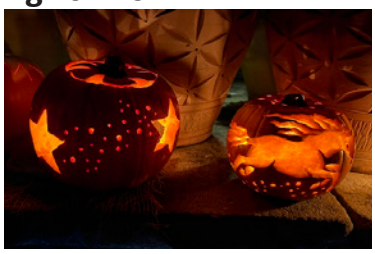


Who needs to go to Chatsworth to see the fireworks? Dan and Amy McGoverne treated residents of Station Road to a spectacular ten-minute display at 7pm on 5th November. Not everyone was happy, though, as some pets were very scared.

Halloween High Jinks







Exquisitely carved pumpkins, made by local artist Cheryl van Burgh





The Morris family were the life and soul of Halloween, as always. Emily and Sophie made over 100 cones for trick or treaters, which went in a flash!





Murder most foul in the Thornbridge Estate fountain - this way, Miss Marple!

Recreation Ground Tea Hut

It has been wonderful to see regular cricket restored to the village calendar. It's been a successful season for the team, with some fantastic results and individual performances. However, the health of the team could not be a bigger contrast to that of the Tea Hut.

The building may look in good condition with its bright new paintwork, though we did find damaged external woodwork that had to be filled before painting. And the inside is not looking quite as good. Before the season started, we replaced a few floorboards under the serving hatch area due to woodworm and rot, and we thought all was well. Unfortunately, we were proved very wrong.

Towards the end of the season, another section of the floor gave way. Fortunately, there were no injuries, but it revealed that the woodworm and rot were far more severe than we first realised. When we stripped out the floor tiles, we identified another three areas where the floorboards need replacing, as well as a few spots where the support joists require bracing.



The Parish Council has kindly funded the treatment for the woodworm and rot, and a few dedicated volunteers are now progressing with the flooring repairs. Additional air bricks are also being installed, as a lack of airflow was identified as a contributing factor.

While this building has been a proud home to the cricket club for over 70 years, it is coming close to the end of its life. LASRA and the Parish Council will soon start looking at future options—so don't be surprised to see a wider village debate soon asking what facilities you would like to see, alongside your thoughts on next steps and financing. **Andy Douglass, LASRA**



WHAT'S ON

LEAP
Longstone Events & Activities Project

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
Film Club **Thu 26th Nov** **7.30 p.m.**	**The Sheep Detectives** Hugh Jackman stars in this feelgood crime caper as shepherd George, dedicated to raising sheep for their wool, not their meat – which is not the attitude of the local agribusiness types who have designs on his land.	**£5** On the door
Wed 9th Dec **10am – 12pm**	**Men's Cooking Group** A Christmas themed cooking morning.	**Free** Email to book.
Sun 13th Dec **2pm – 4pm**	**Christmas Craft Afternoon** Join us for another packed afternoon of crafting and creativity.	**Free** Email to book.
14th Dec Arrival 6.45 pm **7 pm – 8 pm**	**Monday Meditation Group** Sophie Stephenson expertly and gently guides these monthly meditation sessions. New members are welcome	**Free**
16th Dec **2pm – 4pm**	**Christmas Book Swap Café** Bring a couple of books to swap and stay for a chat and enjoy a tea or coffee, and a slice of delicious homemade cake.	
To join our mailing list please email us - email4leap@gmail.com		

Round and About





Until 2005, this London Routemaster operated the 159 service from Oxford Circus to Streatham Station. Now privately owned and based from Nottingham, on 14th November, it was parked outside the White Lion, to take Regan Ford and Molly Gilmour's guests to a reception in Thornbridge Hall after their wedding blessing in St Giles (they got married in Ashbourne earlier in the week).



These Year 6 children from Brinsworth Manor school in Rotherham were staying at Thornbridge Outdoors for three days, being taken on long walks to discover the Peak District by their teacher, Mr. Fallon. On Friday 23rd October, they were on their way from the Monsal Trail to Little Longstone and were learning all about the techniques of dry stone walling.

LEAP Workshop



Fun was had on a Saturday morning making plaques from a tile adhesive/ cement-type material. It was a messy business, first modelling our plaques before decorating and mosaicking them. We also added gold leaf, which really elevated them.

Julia Morgans

Pre-Christmas Sale

OXFAM

Get into the Christmas Spirit at Bakewell Town Hall on Monday 7th December from 10am-12, where there will be plenty of tempting stalls to browse, and the chance to pick up some lovely Christmas gifts while supporting a very worthwhile cause.

There will be something for everyone, with stalls offering jewellery, bric-a-brac, home baking, tasty preserves, books, CDs, DVDs, toys and gifts. There will also be a tombola, supplying a little extra fun and excitement! And if all that browsing makes you feel like taking a break, why not sit down, enjoy a hot drink, have a chat and treat yourself to a delicious piece of homemade cake?

Whether you are looking for unusual Christmas presents, a bargain, a tasty homemade treat or simply an enjoyable festive outing, there will be a warm welcome waiting for you.

Daryl Green

Bruno Cardona
Chimney Sweep
07849455794
Bcardona1977@gmail.com

December Farming Notes



Off to mow a meadow!



Round bales of silage under Longstone Edge



Lysander with Ella on his back



Amigo, the new Charolais bull

Towards the end of October, it was quite dry, so we thought we would take advantage of this by taking another cut of silage. During the summer drought, due to the lack of available grass, we fed 300 round bales of winter feed hay to the stock. When eventually it started to rain, we spread some of the fields with cow manure to encourage more growth, hoping to get another cut of grass.

In the last few weeks, we cut the grass and the contractors came to put it into rows and bale it. We got 135 round bales of silage, which will be a great help through the winter. We would never believe in a normal climate that we'd be silaging at this time of the year, in November.

We had a bit of bad luck with the Charolais stock bulls during the summer, so we needed to get a replacement. Sadly, Lysander, the bull that Tom bred, had to go. He'd been a family favourite for 12 years, and was a pedigree stock bull with excellent calves that regularly topped sales at Bakewell Cattle Market. He'll be greatly missed.

Tom, Dan and their daughters went up to the Stirling bull sales at the end of October, and managed to buy a young 16-month-old bull called Amigo. True to his name, we hope he will be a valued 'friend' to the farm. We are very much looking forward to seeing the calves he produces next year.

Dan and Tom Cox





Dear All,

With the beginning of Advent just behind us, we are about to enter the full throes of the festive season. At this time of year, I'm always reminded of a familiar scene that is repeated in households across the country: children staring longingly at the presents under the Christmas tree. No matter how carefully the gifts are hidden, or how firmly we might say 'you'll have to wait until Christmas day', the excitement – and the impatience – only grows. Even as adults, and I hope it's not just me, we still feel that same sense of anticipation. Waiting can be hard, and Advent makes that clear every year.

An important part of the Christmas season is, of course, the Christmas tree. Each year in Great Longstone, we look forward to the tree with all its lights going up on the Village Green, and as part of the Bakewell Benefice, we are fortunate to have the Bakewell Christmas Tree Festival on our doorstep, when All Saints Church will be filled with Christmas trees decorated by businesses, charities, schools, churches and local organisations, celebrating different aspects of the Bakewell community. With the church filled with light, colour and creativity, each tree will tell a story of hope and generosity. It's a wonderful opportunity for the wider community to come together, to enjoy beauty, and to be reminded that Christmas is about more than just what lies neatly wrapped and beribboned under the branches.

The trees in our homes, on our village greens and in our churches, invite us to consider the gifts that truly last, because alongside the gifts we give – and the gifts we hope to receive – there is another gift at the heart of Christmas, something that cannot be bought and wrapped. It isn't something that comes from being on the 'nice' list, or something we can guess by giving it a gentle shake to see if it rattles. The greatest gift is the gift God gives to the world in Jesus Christ: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. A gift of love. A gift of forgiveness. A gift of hope.

In a world that feels so divided and uncertain, this gift is more needed than ever. The world needed Jesus at his birth, and we continue to need him today. The birth of Christ speaks to our deepest longings – for hope that does not fade, for light that the darkness cannot overcome, for a love that meets us exactly where we are. While the presents under our trees bring us fleeting moments of joy, the gift of Christ brings a joy that endures, and a love that remains sure and steadfast.

During Advent, we wait – just as children wait for the wonder of Christmas morning. But our waiting is not anxious or unsure. We wait for the One who has already come, already given Himself, and continues to make His home with us, and in us. The gift of Christ is freely offered, again and again, to every heart willing to receive it.

So, my encouragement for us all this season is simple: take time to unwrap the greatest gift. Amidst the lights and flurry of activity, find moments of stillness to pray, to reflect, and to see where God is at work in your life, and in the lives of your friends and neighbours. Enjoy the Christmas trees in your homes, in your churches or wherever they may be, and allow their beauty to draw you deeper into the meaning of this holy season. In our parish churches, join with others in worship as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

May the greatest gift of all – the presence of Christ – bring you peace, hope and joy this Christmas and into the year ahead.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas,

David Beale
Reader at St Giles

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond
07935 873930
cubanheel26@btinternet.com

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

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

Services in December

+L-Longstone

6th December – Advent 2
10.30am Toy Service (St Giles)
3pm Carol & Toy Service (Wardlow)

13th December – Advent 3
9.30am Sung Eucharist (Ashford) **(+L)**
4pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

20th December – Advent 4
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)
4pm Carol Service (St Giles)

25th December – Christmas Day
9am Eucharist (Wardlow)
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)

27th 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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Braised Short Rib of Beef

If you're a bit late getting your beef order in to the Village Shop, you may find all that's left are short ribs, probably because people don't know what to do with them. A staple of premium-class airline meals, here's how to enjoy *'the best meat and two veg dish I've ever tasted'*, as recently declared by a 32-year-old, without forking out several thousand pounds for the airfare!

850g short ribs
1 large onion
2 cloves garlic
1 large carrot
1 stick celery
1 red pepper
1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp tomato paste
250ml red wine
500ml beef stock
2 sprig rosemary
2 bay leaves

Pat the ribs dry, and season all over with salt and black pepper. Heat the oil in a casserole dish over medium high heat, and sear the ribs for 3-4 minutes a side until a deep brown colour all over. Remove the ribs and set aside.

Chop the onion, carrot, celery and red pepper finely into 5mm cubes. Fry the onion in the casserole for 10 minutes or so, until softened and lighted browned. Crush the garlic cloves and add to the casserole with the carrot, celery and red pepper for a further five minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook for another minute before adding the red wine, scraping up any brown bits at the bottom of the casserole. Bring to the boil and let the liquid reduce by half.

Now add the beef ribs, beef stock and herbs to the casserole. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook in an oven at 160°C for 3 hours until the meat is tender and has come off the bone.



Remove the ribs, skim off the fat and use a stick blender to liquidise the vegetable mixture to make a rich gravy.

Serve with mashed potato, carrots and tenderstem broccoli. Enjoy!



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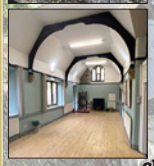
Town Hall Chambers
Anchor Square
Bakewell
DE45 1DR

Tel: 01629 814461

What's On

Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesdays from 10th November - Knit and Natter, Quackers Café 10am (page 3)
Wednesdays - Tread Softly, a Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 12)
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
1st December - Wrap & Wreath, The Monsal, 7pm (page 9) £40
2nd December - Folk Night Session, The Crispin, 7.30pm (page 13)
2nd December - WI Christmas Party, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 4)
6th December - Christmas Craft Fair, Ashford Memorial Institute 10am-4pm (page 11)
7th December - Oxfam Pre-Xmas Sale, Bakewell Town Hall 10am-12pm (page 19)
9th December - LEAP Men's Cooking Group, GL Village Hall 10am-12pm (page 19)
11th-20th December - Bakewell Church Xmas Tree Festival, 9.30am-4pm (page 17)
11th December - Fun Quiz Night, The Crispin, 9pm (page 6)
12th December - Breakfast with Santa, The Monsal (page 9) £15
12th December - Bel Canto Choir, Bakewell Church, 11.15am (page 17)
13th December - Christmas Tree Festival, LL Chapel, 6pm (page 7)
13th December - LEAP Xmas Craft Afternoon, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 19)
15th December - Cressbrook Band Carols, The Crispin, 7pm (page 6)
15th December - LLHG Christmas Quiz, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 18)
16th December - LEAP Christmas Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall 2-4pm (page 19)
20th December - Christmas Ceilidh, Hathersage Memorial Hall 2pm (page 5) £15
20th December - Karlos Kollective gig, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 5) £12
22nd December - Christmas Songs with Karl, The Monsal, 7pm (page 9)
24th December - Carols round the Tree, GL Village Green, 6.30pm (page 5)
31st December - Doghouse Live Music, The Monsal (page 9) £10

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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

For consultations and medical advice, please contact the surgery. A GP or Nurse will call you back to discuss your concerns and if necessary arrange to see you in person. Please collect prescriptions from Reception (allow three working days) and leave samples from 9am to 6pm.

Normal Surgery Opening Times:
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Closed: Bank Holidays and second Wednesday afternoon of each month except August and December.

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Telephone Numbers:
Reception 01246 582216
District Nursing Team 01332 564900
Health Visitor 01246 515100

Please ring for test results after 2.30pm as we do not get results until lunchtime.

For Urgent Calls when the surgery is closed, phone 111

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A Christmas Message from The Crispin

As Christmas approaches, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, filled with love, laughter and happiness, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for all your kindness and support throughout the year. It is always a pleasure to be part of our wonderful community, and we feel very lucky to be surrounded by such lovely people.

Wishing you and your families a truly magical Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead. With warmest wishes,

Hayley, Lydia and all the team at The Crispin



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 16th 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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