

UNDER THE EDGE

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

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This Could Affect Your Future



The pressures of Christmas and the New Year have meant that a large number of households have not yet had the opportunity to express their views on the future of the Longstones through the Longstone Neighbourhood Plan survey. To help get as many opinions as possible, the deadline for submitting the completed forms has therefore been extended to 15th February.

So please do take a few minutes to fill it in, as it will affect the future of Great and Little Longstone and all those who live in these villages. It should not take you more than ten to fifteen minutes – if there's anything you don't understand, or don't want to answer, just skip it. If, on the other hand, you've got more to say, there's space to write as much (or as little) as you want.

Paper copies **are** now available in the Village Shop (or call **07854 706099** to get one delivered to you). To fill it in online, scan the QR code above or go to **qrto.org/f8Jogm**. For more details and information, see the article on page 12.

February Gardening Notes

A brief cold spell and a sprinkling of snow in January, and a lot of dull, damp winter days – let's hope for some sunny weather in February. I will be getting my propagator out of storage and getting it installed in the greenhouse. I will start sowing seeds that have a long growing season such as leeks and brussels, and also a few broad beans for an early crop. Daylight hours are increasing noticeably now but still not a lot of watering required in the greenhouse or indoors. Even in the middle of winter, there are signs of colour in my containers (see photo); the yellow flowers are Witch Hazel and the purple foliage is euphorbia. The borders are full of interest with snowdrops, primulas, cyclamen, aconite and hellebores, which herald the promise of things to come in the spring. If you have not already done so, cut all the old leaves off the hellebores and epimedium to better display the flowers, and they will send out new leaves after flowering. In the house, my orchids have all sent out flower spikes, and I reckon by the end of the month they will be in flower. Seed potatoes can now be put into a light frost-free place to sprout; I shall be planting far fewer potatoes this year as I actually have surplus from a bumper crop last year despite the drought. For the first time, last year I had a good crop of carrots by growing them in a container elevated a couple of feet above the ground to prevent carrot root fly, so I will certainly repeat that and sow some parsnips in a similar fashion. I will trim back ferns now as the new shoots will be emerging; the snow did flatten them anyway.

Andy Hanna



Thornbridge Hall featured in James Nesbitt Netflix Thriller 'Run Away'



If you saw a huge convoy of police vehicles racing off the A6020 into the Thornbridge Estate one day last summer, you'd have been forgiven for wondering if Jim and Emma were being held hostage, or that a mad axe murderer was loose in the grounds! All was revealed when on New Year's Day, Netflix released their latest blockbuster thriller *Run Away*, starring James Nesbitt as Simon Greene, a desperate father searching for his runaway daughter, and Alfred Enoch as DS Isaac Fagbenle. Adapted from a Harlan Coben novel set in New York, it translated seamlessly to Manchester and the Peak District.

Thornbridge Hall features as the 'Shining Haven', headquarters of a secretive cult 'The Beacon of the Shining Truth', whose charismatic leader 'The One', and his two 'divine' sons 'The Visitor' and 'The Volunteer', have their portraits on display in the inner hall. The Music Room is also featured, and was slated to be the site of one of the murders. This either never happened, or was consigned to the cutting room floor, though the rug put down to soak up any blood was left as a souvenir! There's also one scene where Alfred Enoch goes down a staircase into a cellar, but the door to the stairs is a fake, and the cellar action was filmed elsewhere.

According to Olivia Cridland, 'What began with a casual site visit from a couple of location scouts and directors, turned into hundreds of people, a crane, 20-30 police cars and large groups of weapon-wielding men in black

descending on Thornbridge Hall and Thornbridge Outdoors. It was fabulous, although my sincerest apologies for anyone thinking (or hoping!) that the riot vans were really raiding Thornbridge.'

Sadly, also, there were no cameo roles for Emma or Jim, so don't strain your eyes looking out for them! Emma summed up the whole experience, 'So many people. Enormous amounts of equipment. Days of setting up before filming could start, and then restoring the house to normal. All good fun. However, I did walk out of my bedroom onto the great hall gallery and the floorboards creaked, so they had to do another take. No worries – they appeared to do at least 10!'

In a surreal twist, Jim recalls that in the middle of the filming, a second film crew knocked on the door and asked to start filming another show, but that's a story for another day!



Live Music, Top Performers, a Warm Welcome and a Fantastic Offer!



The Peak Music season continues after the Christmas break with its familiar programme of world-class concerts and a special offer for 2026. With three concerts still remaining, the society is offering a special half-season membership for only £45, including entry to all three performances. New members are guaranteed music that is unlikely to be available outside the major cities, in the welcoming atmosphere and great acoustics of the Cavendish Hall, Edensor, on the Chatsworth Estate. At £15 per concert, this is just over half the £85 cost of buying individual tickets to each performance. It also includes drinks and canapés after the March concert, where you can meet our membership and find out more about the Society. This is an ideal opportunity

to get a taste for the diverse programmes that we put on – one not to be missed!

The varied programme begins on 11th February at 7.30pm with talented young cellist Kosta Popovic, accompanied by pianist Valentina Wang. Kosta has performed at venues across the UK and Europe including high-profile festivals. An afternoon concert on 7th March features the popular Connaught Brass, who have appeared at the Lucerne Festival and at London's Wigmore Hall and St. Martin-in-the-Fields as well as nationally on BBC Radio 3. They promise well-known favourites and a few surprises.

A fitting finale to a varied season will be a concert on 16th April featuring the renowned jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth and pianist Charlie Wood. Jacqui is the daughter of jazz legends John Dankworth and Cleo Laine and has made a name for herself with her expressive interpretations of jazz, folk, soul, blues and classical-influenced numbers. Charlie is equally versatile and is known for both his playing and original songwriting.

Individual tickets are available for all concerts via the Peak Music Society website peakmusicsociety.org.uk, where you can also apply online for membership. **Maurice Unwin**



Great Turnout for Carols Round the Tree...



...and for the Little Longstone Carol Service



The service was a great success, finishing with mince pies and mulled wine. We sang, we listened and we sang some more. A fun time was had by all. Thank you, Stella and Jane.

Longstone Local History Group

The first meeting of the year for the Longstone Local History Group was held on 20th January, when strictly local history gave way to more personal histories, with three of our members each relating a story about one of their ancestors.

Ann Hall talked about her grandfather who, during service in World War II, was involved in a very unusual event – the surrender of a German U-boat to an Allied aircraft. Ann's talk was followed by Angela Robinson, who read from an account of a sea-voyage to India undertaken by her great grandfather, and his later experiences as a soldier in that Jewel of the Empire. Finally, Janet Byrne spoke about her great grandfather's nineteenth century career in the Royal Navy and, subsequently, the Coastguard service.

We look forward to hearing similar intriguing tales from other members of our group at future meetings. In the meantime, our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th February at 7.30pm. At this meeting Ann Hall will talk about Longstone cheese making and cotton industries.

Peter Donaldson



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Longstone Ladies Admire the Christmas Lights...

Eleven Longstone Ladies met early on a December evening at the 'bench tree' near the allotments to partake in mulled wine and mince pies, surrounded by twinkly lights. Once the mulled wine had been consumed and everyone had had their fill of mince pies, we set off on a walk around the village to

admire the Christmas lights.

We would like to thank the Longstone residents for the fabulous show of Christmas lights put on this year (last year by the time this goes out!).

Pauline Harrison



...e Augurano Salute e Buon Appetito a Tutti!

On Thursday 15th January, Longstone Ladies enjoyed an Italian themed evening at the Village Hall. Ladies contributed wonderful home cooked Italian dishes, savoury and sweet, with Italian cheese to complete a much appreciated supper, enjoyed by all.

Between mains and pudding a quiz on all things Italian was enjoyed by 6 teams with the winning team receiving various forms of pasta to argue over!

Ciao,
Barbara Birley



Time for a Story

Do you like stories? I think we all do. They excite our curiosity. How will it end? Will it be happy or sad? Will we want to know more?

Publishers sell all kinds of books now as knowledge expands with the passage of time. But a long time ago, when I was very young, I was given a Children's Encyclopaedia. This one had a black and white picture on the first page. I can still visualise it. There were question marks with faces of young people within the curve. Below was part of a poem by Rudyard Kipling, entitled *I keep six honest serving men*:

I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew)
Their names were **What? Why? and When?**
And **How?** and **Where** and **Who?**

The author wanted children to be curious and ask questions, so that they could learn about the world and everything in it.

The particular historical stories I have continued to read since childhood take place in a time that was as turbulent as our present day. This was in a land occupied by a powerful force expanding its Empire far beyond its homeland.

ROME was the Empire, and the land it occupied was the one we now call Israel. So, the people struggled under their oppressors and the high taxes they imposed, and they were doubly burdened by religious laws. The law of Moses had been given to him by God, and numbered just TEN

Commandments. They were written on tablets of stone. These were His guide for living and our relationship with Him and with others and were complete. But, over time, the religious leaders added hundreds more restrictive sanctions, making life impossibly hard.

Into their world came a young man who was a story teller. He was, however, one who was radically different from any others who had gone before him. He gathered a dozen followers and set out on his mission to change lives. The people had been told that one day a leader would come, bringing in a new age of peace. They assumed he would be a warrior king who would defeat and drive out the Romans. They were mistaken. This young man was Jesus of Nazareth.

The stories he told were called parables. To the people who heard them, they appeared relevant to their lives, like the Sower of Seed, The Lost Sheep, Lost Coins, as well as tales of family matters, like the question of inheritance between brothers, and many, many more.

Story tellers were, in effect, the internet of their day. Many people could neither read nor write but they could LISTEN and they did in increasingly large numbers. The crowds followed Jesus as he passed from village to village. But these stories held a deeper meaning for those with a heart to hear it and are still are relevant in this day and age.

Pat Westwell

Christmas Cheer at Wardlow



On Sunday 14th December, villagers of Wardlow, young and old, joined together at the Church of the Good Shepherd for a festive service. The service, led by David Beale, was full of joy and lightness as Claire Rowland and Alison Walther narrated the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem with joyous Christmas carols throughout the service. The children participated by putting the nativity scene together during the service.

We thank everyone who attended and everyone who donated toys for the local hospital, which will distribute

these to the children in need within our wider community.

In the afternoon, the Wardlow village hall opened its doors to host a full range of crafts for various age ranges. Martha Bramwell and Dianne Maltby organised and hosted a wreath making event with great success, with some lovely wreaths put together throughout the morning. Children were able to participate in a crafts afternoon, where they made Christmas hats, crowns, reindeer food plus lots more.

Claire Rowland

New Year – Time to Declutter and Make a Fresh Start...



Why not start the New Year with a good clear out whilst supporting your local community transport charity?

Not only do we welcome donations of secondhand books but we can also recycle inkjet cartridges, mobile phones, iPads, video cameras, games consoles, satnavs, cameras, stamps and unwanted jewellery. All proceeds from our book shop and our recycling projects support the charitable work of Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport.

Donations can be taken to our depot at Great Longstone Business Park and small quantities can also be left at our secondhand book shop, Book End, on Bridge Street, Bakewell.

Thank you for your support – for more information about our transport services and our varied volunteering opportunities, please see our website www.bect.org.uk or call us on 01629 641920.



Helen Chapman

Local Government Update

A reminder that Derbyshire County Council meetings are on YouTube (@Derbyshireccc), although watching them is not usually a pleasant experience. The meeting on 10th December was particularly depressing, as it features a Councillor having an extraordinary outburst when addressing a member of the public. In response to a question about flags, Stephen Reed (Reform, Clay Cross & Tupton), went off into a rant about how British he felt, including telling us that his father was from Wolverhampton, his daughter was born in Australia, and that he had spent £20,000 to get his little girl into the UK. Most of his Reform colleagues clapped in support. A LibDem and a Green councillor both raised points of order about conduct, saying that it was unacceptable for a member of the public to be shouted at in the chamber. Chair Nick Adams (Reform, Dovedale & Ashbourne North) grudgingly asked Cllr Reed to apologise. Cllr Reed's next words were 'You can take the Australian out of Australia. You can't take the Australian out of the Australian.'

Other odd things that County Councillors have said and done recently include Charlotte Hill (Reform, Melbourne & Woodville), who appeared on the BBC's Politics East Midlands on 11th January. Panellists were asked whether they supported the newly announced proposal to reduce the drink-drive limit in England and Wales, to match that already in place in Scotland. Cllr Hill responded that she didn't support a reduction, as she thought people were responsible and were able to make decisions for themselves. She added that there were lots of pubs in rural areas in the Peak District which would suffer if drink-drive limits were made stricter. As a resident of a village with nearby pubs, I would prefer that patrons leaving the pubs and climbing into their often large and heavy SUVs weren't driving under the influence of alcohol. Instead of encouraging people to drink and drive, a more sensible option would be to improve

public transport in the evenings and on weekends, to give people alternatives.

The oddest thing of all, however, was a personal Facebook post that Alan Graves, Leader of the Council (Reform, Aston), shared on 13th January showing a letter that he had written, on DCC-headed notepaper, addressed to the King at Buckingham Palace, claiming that 'widespread protest, persistent social unrest and deep political disillusionment now mark daily life throughout the nation' and asking the king to dissolve Parliament.

Surprisingly, it was typed, rather than written, in green ink. This is a Trumpian level of disconnect with reality, but is also straight out of the far-right playbook. The Reform candidate for the London Mayoral election, Laila Cunningham, has recently claimed that 'London, one of the greatest cities on Earth, is no longer safe.' This is despite figures showing that crime levels have been dropping in London.

In welcome contrast to the County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council is doing some positive things. The Local Projects Fund allows Councillors to support community-led initiatives in the ward they represent, and our local project to install swift boxes, led by Nicky Loveday, has received £200 from the Fund. The District Council also recently carried out a Housing Needs Survey for the Longstone area. And Darley Dale Town Council is running its annual Big Green Energy Event at the Whitworth Centre on Saturday 7th February, from 11am-3pm (darleydale.gov.uk/the-big-green-energy-event-2026).

Finally, remember that the East Midlands Mayor's local transport survey is running until 7th February, so if you haven't filled it in yet, do it now at eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk/mayors-transport-plan. We won't get a better bus service if we don't ask for it!

Georgina Blair

The Monsal Welcomes the New Year in Style!

The Monsal welcomed 2026 in style with a cracking New Year's Eve celebration. Live music from Brew Droop filled the Canteen, making them the first band to perform in this room since it opened in November 2024.

With plenty of dancing, fun and frivolity, the night was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came along - and watch this space for more live band events at The Monsal in the coming year!



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

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

Two years ago, a Village Hall meeting showed there was a strong feeling that a new use should be found for the building and it should be kept as a community asset. At the time, suggestions included: Arts and Crafts Space, Sports Space/Gym, 'Men's Shed', a Music Room, and a return to being a Pre-School/Nursery. Its use is restricted to F1 (educational activities), but we believe we could apply to change the classification to F2 (village hall activities).

There's already good support, and guarantees for the first year's rent, for a 'Men's Shed' for repairing and repurposing

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items, and a working party is being set up to progress this. There is interest from other parties, so the final use is not yet set in stone and, if there was a serious bid to reopen it as a nursery/pre-school, we would do all we can to support this.

Simon Headington and Andy Douglass

Happy Valentine's Day from the Wednesday Tread Softly Walkers!



It's been truly soul-warming over the last couple of darker months of winter to welcome new visitors for our Wednesday walk, to which we added a few simple prayers after coffee for those interested. Thank you to Sheila and Angela Thornhill especially for helping with catering for additional numbers; hot sausage rolls and cheesy pastries were very welcome. Thank you Valerie Murdin, Marcus Gray, June Fawcett and David Beale for helping to choose poems, readings and blessings and some alfresco music for hope and peace.



Paul from way down south of Derby set off very early to join us for prayers for joy. That day, generous village folk kindly offered positive feedback on our unrehearsed carol singing in the rain! Andy and Hugh from Sheffield always bring fun and a certain craziness, brightening spirits especially on cold and damp days. Christine and Jade come from Chesterfield in all weathers and bring their lovely kind and caring selves.

Cheryl Mayfield keeps us posted on bird song. The intrepid duo, Linda and Jonathan, joined us from Ashover on our first January gathering as storm Goretti approached, to share thoughts on faith, and we discovered a hidden path and a new perspective. And then there was wee Aaron, who has only just started school, who came with his mum and dad from Calver for thoughts on love, which was lovely (but someone forgot to take photos!).

Join us as the days become lighter and longer any Wednesday at 10am prompt from St Giles' lychgate, but please wear stout boots and dress warmly. Bring water and a stick or two, especially if you are not used to offroading. We always try something a little bit new, while working within everyone's capability and caring for one another (we hope!). We will maybe add some poems and prayers during Lent by popular request. Alison Waltho



Andrew Bowers 4th May 1942 – 20th December 2025



Andrew Bowers was born on 4th May 1942 and, remarkably, lived for around eighty of his eighty-three years in the same house in Great Longstone. In these days of constant movement, such constancy feels extraordinary. As a boy, Andrew planted a chestnut sapling in his parents' front garden. Today, that tree stands fully mature beside Daleway, the family home, on the road leading towards Little Longstone – a quiet, living landmark and a fitting legacy for a man whose life was so deeply rooted in this village.

Andrew's parents, Ethel and Bill, were themselves pillars of the community. Bill worked at the Thornhill factory for over twenty-five years, while Ethel was a strong and familiar presence in the church, Women's Institute and the Girl Guides. Together, they created a close, warm family environment that shaped Andrew's values and outlook.

From an early age, Andrew's life was filled with athletic endeavour. There was scarcely a sport he did not try, and his competitive streak soon saw trophies and cups lining his shelves. Cricket, however, became his defining passion. As a fast bowler for Great Longstone Cricket Club, he made his mark early, taking a hat-trick at just seventeen years old. Soon after, Derbyshire County Cricket Club offered him terms – an opportunity he declined in favour of an apprenticeship with the Electricity Board, choosing a steady working life while continuing to pursue cricket at the highest possible club level.

Andrew's career with the Electricity Board spanned forty years, based at depots including Bakewell, Matlock and Chesterfield, as an engineer. His work often took him to remote substations, on call day and night and in all weathers. Whilst at Matlock he was called out to help repairs after several major incidents caused by severe weather conditions. He chose to take overtime as time off in lieu of pay, using it to indulge his love of skiing in Europe and to travel widely through cricket. In particular, as a member of different teams, he went as far afield as Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Africa, and Zimbabwe – building relationships with those he met, with New Zealand becoming almost a second home.

While in his late twenties, Andrew was invited to play as an opening bowler for the Chesterfield Cricket Club in 1970, after Jim Brailsford and Steve Yates batted against

him on the Ashford ground and spotted the talent. So, after starting to play cricket at Great Longstone, Andrew went on to become a defining figure at Chesterfield Cricket Club, where he played, coached, captained, and mentored for decades. Known for being mild-mannered off the pitch, his bowling was fearsome, with a deceptively short run-up that unleashed deliveries of startling pace. As one teammate during the 1980s recalled, they were all grateful Andy was on their side – a fierce competitor whose short run to the wicket produced some of the fastest balls many batsmen had ever faced. Contemporary newspaper reports described his bowling as 'venomous', capable of 'shredding' the opposition.

Yet it was the contrast between that intensity and his generosity off the field that defined him. He was understated, approachable, and always willing to share advice – advice that players knew would genuinely improve their game. Several lads from the Longstone and Chesterfield teams went on to represent Derbyshire at various levels, and they acknowledged Andy Bowers as a key inspiration.

This influence extended across generations. For younger players growing up obsessed with cricket, Andy was spoken of in almost reverential terms. Not simply because of his ability, but because of the time he gave. He nourished and nurtured young bowlers, offering insight into action, technique, and improvement, and doing so with a consistently positive outlook and a deep enjoyment of the game.

At Chesterfield, Andy was a great mentor to those breaking into the first team. A lightning-fast bowler, he was remembered for an especially fearsome bouncer up the hill at Queen's Park, and for regularly sending stumps cartwheeling in all directions. When he skippered the second team in the 1990s, he made a point of encouraging youngsters, giving everyone a chance. Even in the field, his humour was never far away – telling a slip fielder to stop hiding behind the wicketkeeper as the ball flew through, then laughing along with everyone else.

Andy was awarded Honorary Life Membership at Chesterfield and recognised as one of the club's 'Greats'. Beyond Chesterfield, he also represented the Bassetlaw League and played for the MCC across the UK and overseas. He enjoyed a long association with the MCC, earning a cap in recognition of having played one hundred matches.

Fittingly, Andrew's cricketing journey ended where it began – back in Great Longstone, this time as an umpire, broaching no nonsense from any player. Another Honorary Life Membership followed. Last year, he was delighted to see the Recreation Ground once again alive with cricket.



Away from cricket, Andrew took up golf at Buxton's Cavendish Golf Club in 1975. What began as an ungainly swing gradually mellowed into one that could hold its own, with his competitive edge often telling on the hilly course. Football was another lifelong passion, and from the era of the Busby Babes onward, he remained a devoted Manchester United supporter. He played locally as a centre forward, and was described as 'hard as nails', choosing not to wear shin pads. His fitness was honed by middle-distance runs through the lanes and hills surrounding the village.

Andrew also shared his life with a succession of much-loved Labrador dogs. Walks through the fields, the trails, and Monsal Dale provided the perfect setting for dog and owner alike. One, Caddy, even enjoyed the rare distinction of holding a Derbyshire Cricket Club dog season ticket.

In later years, Andrew's mobility declined, and a fall three months ago, resulting in a broken leg, made daily life more difficult still. Yet he remained stoic and positive, living with considerable pain and discomfort while continuing to chat, laugh, and welcome visitors. Andrew died at Thornhill House, Great Longstone, on 20th December, a week after being discharged from Chesterfield Royal Hospital and a period of rehabilitation in Buxton.

FOLS – Community Help Wanted



The Friends of Longstone School (FOLS) are looking for skilled and practical members of our community to help us revitalise areas of the school playground.

We have an ambitious goal to bring new life and learning opportunities to the outdoor spaces, and we are seeking:

- Landscapers or gardeners to help refresh and enhance the green areas
- A tradesperson who could replace the decking around the school pond
- Someone with woodworking or practical building skills, who could construct bucket scales for the children

If you are able to help, offer advice, donate time, or know someone who might be interested, we would love to hear from you. Your support would make a huge difference to the children's play and learning environment.

Please get in touch with Louise Brewster on **07966 863941** or Jade Ojari on **07701 009017** for more information. Thank you for supporting our community school.

Louise Brewster

art Talks at Great Longstone Village Hall

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

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



A Sculpture in the making

Thursday February 18th 2026

Exploring the visual elements of sculpture

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

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



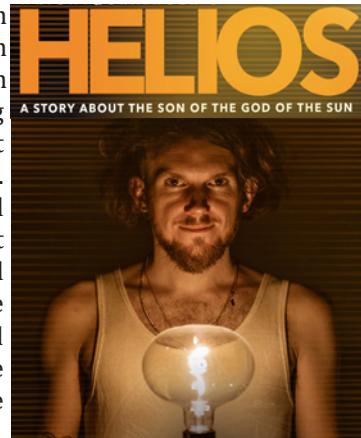
Andy Bowers will be remembered as friendly, patient, and quietly charismatic – a beautiful man who always had time for others. He will be greatly missed by his family, his village, and by the countless players whose lives and love of cricket he shaped.

Chris Holt



Live and Local

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



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

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- A powerful, atmospheric score
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- A story that lingers long after the lights fade

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

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

Jane Littlefield

Who Used to Run Our Villages? The Township Officers!

Before Parish Councils were created in 1894, and long before district and county councils took on modern services, local communities had to organise day-to-day affairs for themselves. For centuries, this practical, everyday local government happened at the level of the township – the historic predecessors of our modern civil parishes.

In the Longstone area, each township – Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Rowland, Wardlow and Hassop – appointed a small team of local officers each year. These weren't grand paid officials. They were ordinary local people, chosen in rotation, expected to do their bit to keep the community running.

Here are the key roles that would have helped run village life:

The Overseer of the Poor: If one office defines the township era, it is the Overseer of the Poor. This person collected the poor rate – the local tax that funded help for those who needed it. It was both a practical job and a moral one. Overseers needed tact, firmness, local knowledge, and more time and patience than most of them probably wanted to give.

Their responsibilities included:

- Assessing who needed relief (money, bread, clothing, fuel)
- Keeping careful account books
- Paying for medical assistance when required
- Arranging apprenticeships for orphaned or destitute children
- Sometimes negotiating with neighbouring townships about responsibility for an individual

The Surveyor of the Highways (or Waywarden): Looking after the roads was the responsibility of the Surveyor of the Highways. Before county councils, there was no centrally funded road maintenance. In some periods, households could be required to contribute a number of days' work on the roads each year, instead of money. The quality of the road into a village was often a direct reflection of how active (or how patient) the Surveyor had been.

Townships were responsible for:

- Repairing roads and bridges
- Maintaining drainage ditches and causeways
- Clearing snow and mud
- Paying for stone, gravel or lime
- Hiring workers or calling on local labour

The Constable: Every township appointed a Constable, sometimes called a Headborough or Borsholder. This was not a policeman in the modern sense, but a local peace officer. It was community policing but based heavily on personal authority and local reputation.

Their duties included:

- Breaking up disorderly gatherings
- Escorting vagrants to the boundary (a real responsibility!)
- Serving warrants and notices
- Reporting "nuisances" (such as blocked footpaths) to Quarter Sessions
- Presenting local offenders to the magistrates

The Hayward (and related roles): In agricultural and grazing communities, particularly upland ones, the Hayward helped manage shared pasture and commons. In areas around Longstone Edge and Monsal Dale, this would have been especially important where enclosed and open land

met. The Hayward worked closely with the Pinder, who was responsible for looking after animals that had been found straying or had been impounded. These animals would have been kept temporarily in the village Pinfold. In smaller communities, the Hayward and the Pinder might have been the same person.

Their jobs were to:

- Keep stray livestock from damaging crops
- Mark or impound animals grazing without right
- Maintain township boundaries and walls



Little Longstone Pinfold, still ready for use



Our Village Hall was built on the site of Great Longstone Pinfold

Ordinary People, Local Government

What's striking is that these officers were not professionals. They were farmers, smallholders, lead miners, and tradespeople and all would have been villagers known to their neighbours. In smaller communities, such as Hassop and Rowland, there might have been periods when they shared officers, with one person doing the same job in both parishes.

Offices rotated. You might be Overseer this year, Surveyor next decade, Constable sometime later. And your neighbour would do the same in their turn. This would have happened in communities across the country, so no matter where your family came from, most of us will have ancestors who both held these roles and interacted with them.

It was community self-government, at the most human level.

From Township to Civil Parish

When the law changed in 1866, these townships officially became civil parishes – but the responsibilities of these officers carried on. Only with the Local Government Act 1894 were modern Parish Councils introduced, and only in larger communities like Great Longstone. The smaller places, such as Little Longstone, Rowland, Wardlow, and Hassop, continued with parish meetings instead, as they still do today.

So, when we talk about 'parish identity' and 'local decision-making', we are not looking at something Victorian or modern at all. We are looking at centuries of continuity in how our communities have run their own affairs.

Simon Headington

Sleeping Beauty and the Wizard of Eyam

Eyam Panto Week, directed as ever by the amazing Nicky Wright, was sold out for every performance from 14th-17th January. Taking the leads were Rosie (Amelie Beatson) and Jack (Jennie Swift), who embark on a colourful quest to awaken the beautiful Princess Esmeralda (Cerys Hancock) from her deep sleep, with the help of the hilarious Wizard of Eyam (John Slator). Also in the main cast was Lucas Beatson, in the comical role of a DOPE (Defender of Princess Esmeralda), while Emily Morris was fabulous in the chorus. Emily, Amelie and Lucas formed a Great Longstone

contingent – it's great when communities come together!

Like every Panto, the Dames were joyful, the laughs were loud, and the whole cast brought the magic to Eyam. It was a team effort of spectacular actors delivering an epic performance full of fun, sparkle and laughter – a spectacular show overall.

We all had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed the Panto season to blast away the January blues. Well done to all involved!

Jo Beatson



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Have Your Say on the Longstone Neighbourhood Plan

Like everywhere, the Longstone Area is changing, and our Neighbourhood Plan is how we can influence what that change looks like. Whether you've lived here for decades, moved in more recently, you're juggling family life, commuting, or enjoying retirement, your perspective matters. When completed, the Neighbourhood Plan has a legal status and is significant in determining what the future looks like for us.

We've opened a **comprehensive, anonymous survey** to gather your views and priorities for the future of our villages. If there's anything you don't understand, or simply don't want to answer, **just skip it**. And if you've got more to say, there's space to **write as much (or as little) as you like**.

So far, we've had really helpful feedback on housing,

tourism, transport, land use and the environment, and we'd love to hear from many more residents – we're leaving the survey open until 15th February. Go to qrto.org/f8Jogm to fill it in online, or scan the QR code on the front cover.

Prefer paper? **Hard copies are available at the Village Shop.** If you can't get there, email villageplan@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk or call us on **07854 706099** and we can deliver a copy.

This is your opportunity to shape the future of the Longstone area and **this survey is how you do it**.

A meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 25th February in the Village Hall will give feedback on this and the Housing Survey.

Sean Kelleher-Clarke

Funding for Local Projects to Protect Peak District Wildlife



Photos courtesy of The Visionaries Community Nature Fund



Photo courtesy of Rowland Parish



Through its Community Nature Fund, the Peak District National Park Foundation is offering grants to local groups taking action to create, expand and improve spaces for nature. The Fund supports initiatives that promote biodiversity, restore habitats, and encourage community engagement. Funding of up to £5,000 is available towards capital expenditure, including landscape features (such as trees and ponds) and built items (e.g. fencing) as well as equipment and tools.

Grants can be used to support all kinds of work that will benefit wildlife and biodiversity, but examples could include:

- Creating wildflower meadows
- Planting hedgerows or trees
- Building or restoring ponds
- Installing bird or bat boxes

Parish councils, schools, CICs, CIOs, charities, and constituted voluntary groups can apply for projects taking

place within the National Park boundary. Smallholders can also apply as long as the projects are not-for-profit and can demonstrate clear benefits for biodiversity.

The next deadline for applications is Tuesday 10th February, and applicants will hear the outcome of their application by 27th February.

For more information and to apply, visit the Foundation's website peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk/community-nature-fund. The Peak District Foundation is an independent charity that works to create a National Park that is thriving for nature and people, and is protected for future generations. They want to see more land managed for nature, more heritage and rare habitats protected, and more people able to enjoy the Peak District National Park.

They are building a community of supporters who work with them to protect and improve the Peak District for everyone, forever. To find out more and join the community, head to the website peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk.

Mike Sawkins

Beautiful Christmas Decorations at Haddon Hall

(photos thanks to Ali Plowright)





SPRING 2026 WHAT'S ON

Longstone Events and Activities (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

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
Thurs 22 nd Jan 7 p.m.	Art Talks - Leaps of the Imagination The art of science and the science of art With Richard Foulkes, a volunteer guide and researcher at Manchester Art Gallery	£5 MAG Donation
Wed 4 th Feb Wed 15 th Apr 10 a.m. - 12	Men's Cooking Group This Spring our two workshops will be exploring the flavours of Italy. All welcome!	FREE Email to book
Thurs 19 th Feb 7 p.m.	Art Talk - A Sculpture in the making Exploring the visual elements of sculpture with Richard Foulkes	£5 MAG Donation
Sun 22 nd Feb 7.30 p.m.	Live and Local HELIOS – A Modern Myth for a Modern World Award winning storytellers Wright & Grainger, take us into a world where ancient Greek legend collides with the quiet lanes of England and the pulse of the city.	£13.50 Book online or email.
Thurs 5 th Mar 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Leaf plates - Ceramics Workshop We welcome Mel MacDonald back for an evening workshop making and glazing leaf plates.	£15 Book online or email.
Wed 11 th Mar 10 a.m -4 p.m	Sewing Workshop with Marge Elliot The first sewing workshop of the year will focus on "getting to know your machine"	£10 Book online or email.
Sat 14 th March 1 p.m - 4 p.m.	Weaving Workshop Using cardboard looms fabric scraps, yarns and ribbons, we will experiment with texture, colour and pattern to create woven pieces. Louise Brooks, of Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust is the workshop leader.	£5 Book online or email.
Wed 22 nd April 2 p.m - 4 p.m.	Container Gardening Demonstration Andy Hanna will share his horticultural expertise to show how to create interesting planting for a variety of containers.	FREE
9 th Feb, 16 th Mar, 20 th Apr, 22 nd Jun 20 th Jul	Monday Monthly Meditation Group Sophie Stephenson expertly and gently guides these monthly meditation sessions. New members are welcome. 6.45 p.m. arrival 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.	FREE
Film Club Thu 29 th Jan 7.30 p.m.	A Haunting in Venice Celebrated sleuth Hercule Poirot, now retired and living in self-imposed exile in Venice, attends a Halloween séance at a decaying palazzo. When one of the guests dies, the detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.	£5 On the door
Film Club Thu 26 th Feb 7.30 p.m.	Blue Road: The Edna O'Brien Story an engaging study of a life less ordinary. One of Ireland's most important novelists and a woman of fierce intelligence and bravery is celebrated in Sinéad O'Shea's thoroughly enjoyable documentary.	£5 On the door
Film Club Thu 26 th Mar 7.30 p.m.	The Choral Alan Bennett's new film, directed by Nicholas Hytner, is a quiet and consistent pleasure: a deeply felt drama which subcontracts actual passion to the music of Elgar and leaves us with a heartbeat of wit, poignancy and common sense.	£5 On the door
Film Club Thu 30 th Apr 7.30 p.m.	Dead of Winter Emma Thompson lights up this icy Fargo country thriller as grief-stricken widow who gets lost on the back roads of Minnesota. She soon finds herself in a desperate fight for survival as she encounters a murderous couple holding a young woman hostage.	£5 On the door
28 th Jan 25 th Feb 25 th Mar 29 th Apr	Book Swap Café - last Wednesday of every month 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Bring a couple of books to swap and join us for tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.	

The Evocative Power of Song



The Drystone Waller's Song by Pip Grimes

We're men of flint and we do our stint come rain or shine or snow
A ton a yard o' rock so 'ard to see the boundary grow
Grey stone gritstone cracked and split stone strain our arms to lift it
Mudstone limestone grit and grimestone brace our backs to shift it
From the virgin soil we start our toil the trench is laid and ready
Footings in to underpin and make it good and steady
Facestones hearting strength imparting throughs to tie each side in
Batter sloping topped with coping work to tek a pride in
When sheep break out go walk about the farmer comes a-calling
We set our caps and mend the gaps, Hurrah! For drystone walling
Rid it out re-build it stout then fillings in wi' a clatter
Stoop and stack till the wall is back the stock no more to scatter
We're men of flint and we do our stint come rain or shine or snow
A ton a yard o' rock so 'ard to see the boundary grow
A landscape rich in wall and ditch a view that will endure
Ten thousand mile o' stone and stile to stand for evermore

Walking along Dobb Edge in the New Year, a friend who sings in a choir broke into song at the sight of a beautiful gritstone wall. The lyrics seemed so relevant to where we live in the Peak District, with gritstone and limestone walls in abundance. The photograph was taken a few days later from the trig point at Wardlow Hay Cop looking towards Longstone Moor.

It turns out that *The Drystone Waller's Song* was written by Pip Grimes, a member of the Silsden choir in the Yorkshire Dales. In October 2003, the choir (which varies between 15 and 25 in number) was awarded a Lottery grant of £5,000 to research local songs. The choir members set to, visiting old folks' homes, libraries, museums and archives as far away as Glasgow, coming up with songs about farms, shepherds, horse dealing, railway navvies and so on, while some, like Pip, put pen to paper and came up with their own songs in the Dales tradition.

Pip's husband had just completed a course in dry stone walling, and she realised no one had unearthed any song on this subject, so she had a go. Having come up with a tune and rhythm, the words followed naturally. The choir leader, Janet Russell, then notated it, and a former choir member, Betty O'Malley, transformed it into a three-part harmony that is still sung by the choir today. **Judith Ward**



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The NSPCC are looking for new volunteers all around Derbyshire to help support our *Speak out, Stay safe* programme in schools, as well as other volunteering opportunities within the NSPCC and Childline.

If you are interested in volunteering as a *Speak out, Stay safe* volunteer and want to find out more about the role, the next step is to attend a Volunteer Information Meeting, which is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Meet with staff and volunteers to ask questions
- Learn more about the application process and your volunteer journey

To apply to be a volunteer with the NSPCC School Service, go online to join-us.nspcc.org.uk/volunteers/volunteers/schools.

For other volunteering opportunities, go to join-us.nspcc.org.uk/volunteers/home. These include:

- Childline (in one of our NSPCC bases across the UK or as part of our Virtual Hub, which is home-based)
- Community Fundraising - supporting local fundraisers in your area to raise funds at events

Rachel Willis



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February at The Monsal



What a fantastic start to the year! The NYE party was a huge success – great turnout, great atmosphere, and great fun. Thanks so much to everyone who came along and helped make it such a brilliant night. More live music will be coming your way – we're working on getting more bands booked throughout the year, so plenty to look forward to. We're excited to welcome back Micklemas, the folk band who played just before Christmas. They'll be performing again on Sunday 22nd February at around 5.30pm. **The Monsal Team**

New Menus at the White Lion

Buster and Pauline were originally only going to be managing the White Lion for three weeks in September, in between Dan McGoverne's departure and the arrival of a new tenant from Liverpool. Excuse followed delay followed excuse, so the Browns are still here, at least until May. Here are their latest menus with freshly sourced produce for you to enjoy – there's also a kid's menu for £6.95. Food is served from 12-8.30pm Thursday-Saturday and 12-5pm Sunday.





Thanks go to The Crispin, where ten members enjoyed a very enjoyable New Year meal.

Our next meeting is on 4th February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, when Alison Waltho will give a talk on the Peak Wesley Way.

Come along to what will be a most interesting talk – all are welcome. For more information, ring me on **07876 482946**.

Zoe McGregor

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LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETINGS

Little Longstone Chapel at 7pm

Monday 9th March

Annual Meeting Thursday 28th May

Little Longstone Road Closure

The main road through Little Longstone will be closed from the Packhorse to Monsal Head on Monday and Tuesday 16th-17th February for Severn Trent works. Full details can be found online at one.network/?tm=GB147572414.

Leaving Christmas Trees on the Green is Fly Tipping!



Please don't dump your used tree on the Village Green. This is an offence that can incur a minimum on-the-spot fine of £150.

It is some years now since DDDC provided a free Christmas tree removal service, and there has **never** been a collection point on the Village Green.

If you pay for a Green Bin (or equivalent bags), DDDC will usually take Christmas trees as part of the first two collections of the New Year. Otherwise, you need to take it to a Council Recycling Centre – the nearest is on the A6 between Rowsley and Darley Dale.

Alternatively, you can register your tree with Blythe House Treecycle scheme and they will collect it in return for a donation to their charity (see article below).

Great Longstone Parish Council

Blythe House Treecycle Success

Blythe House Hospice's annual Treecycle campaign raised an amazing £16,478 for the charity by collecting 949 real Christmas trees across North Derbyshire. This will provide 284 hours of Hospice at Home care, ensuring patients receive expert support and compassion in the comfort of their own homes at the end of life.

The campaign's success wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of New Mills-based S 'N' S Trees, who provided expertise, equipment, and invaluable support. Local businesses also played a key role, donating vans, volunteers, or both, including Breedon, CEMEX, Enterprise Car Hire, IQVIA, Markovitz, Practical Car and Van Hire, and Horderns of Chapel-en-le-Frith. Volunteers were fuelled for action thanks to Ostello Lounge, who provided bacon butties to keep spirits high.

Rebecca Mellor



Thornhill House Move to The Grange Update

The legal side of the purchase of The Grange is still progressing.

The pre-planning meeting in December went well, and discussions with the planners continue. Information relating to the site is required to make sure that all regulations are met. Once we are ready to begin drawing up plans, we will book an open meeting to share and seek feedback on our early-stage plans and ideas.

The fundraising feasibility study results are positive, although challenging! Following agreement with the trustees, a strategy will be drawn up for a fundraising campaign.

Lucy Wright

Rudolph, Why is your Nose so Red?



Because it's so cold, Rabbit!

Micklemas on the Solstice at the Stable Bar



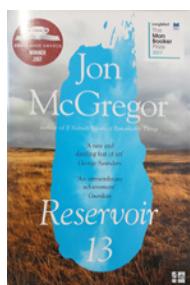
Thanks to Ali Plowright for the two photos above

Bakewell Library Recommends...



My Sister the Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite. When Korede's dinner is interrupted one night by a distress call from her sister, Ayoola, she knows what's expected of her: bleach, rubber gloves, nerves of steel, and a strong stomach. This'll be the third boyfriend Ayoola's dispatched in, quote, self-defence and the third mess that her lethal little sibling has left Korede to clear away. She should probably go to the police for the good of the menfolk of Nigeria, but she loves her sister and, as they say, family always comes first. Until, that is, Ayoola starts dating the doctor where Korede works as a nurse. Korede's long been in love with him, and isn't prepared to see him wind up with a knife in his back - but to save one would mean sacrificing the other.

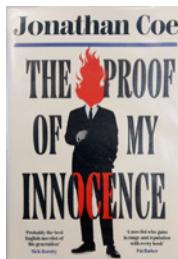
One of the most readable books I've ever come across - I found it almost impossible to put down. A murder-filled novel with a dark sense of humour, it appears at first to be a simple thriller with an interesting concept; however, beneath the surface lie numerous complex themes. A fantastic read that works on many levels - I can't imagine anyone not enjoying this. Read it! **Rating 5/5**



Reservoir 13 by Jon McGregor. Midwinter in the early years of this century. A teenage girl on holiday has gone missing in the hills at the heart of England. The villagers are called up to join the search, fanning out across the moors as the police set up roadblocks and a crowd of news reporters descends on their usually quiet home. Meanwhile, there is work that must still be done: cows milked, fences repaired, stone cut, pints poured,

beds made, sermons written, a pantomime rehearsed. The search for the missing girl goes on, but so does everyday life. As it must.

This is a haunting portrait of a rural community in the wake of a traumatic event. It evokes the changing seasons and the feelings of the villagers with great sensitivity. What stands out most is the beautiful, lyrical quality of the writing. A moving read. **Rating 4/5**



The Proof of My Innocence by Jonathan Coe. When Phyl, a young literature graduate, moves back home with her parents, she soon finds herself frustrated by the narrow horizons of English country life. But the chance discovery of a forgotten novelist from the 1980s stirs her into action, as does a visit from a family friend, Chris - especially when he tells her that he's working on a political story that could put his life in danger. Chris has been following the progress of an opaque think-tank, founded at Cambridge University in the 1980s, which has been steadily pushing the British government in a more extreme direction. After years in the political wilderness, they are finally poised to put their ideas into action. As Britain finds itself under the leadership of a new Prime Minister whose tenure will only last for seven weeks, Chris pursues his story to a conference being held deep in the Cotswolds, where events take a sinister turn.

This novel is witty and reaffirms that Coe is a master of social observation. The characters are engaging and relatable, with many reminding me of people I know. The 'story within a story' concept kept me entertained, and I simply couldn't put this book down. **Rating 4/5**

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Christmas Cheer with the Karlos Kollective



The now biannual Karlos Kollective extravaganza took place at the Village Hall on 12th December, with the usual Christmas cheer and beautiful community vibes all round. It was fantastic to have the wonderful Cari Kirby back and, of course, Sam Youdan to add to the musical variety on show. A special mention must be made to Karl's student Mollie, who performed for the first time on electric guitar in front of an audience. She was a superstar!

The event brought together a packed house from the local community, who participated, cheered and even



conga-danced their way through the evening. It was a truly special reminder of the importance of community spirit and sharing some love, togetherness and joy in these somewhat uncertain times. Karl hopes to be doing a few more of these music events throughout 2026, so keep a look out for more to come. A huge thank you to everybody who helped, from the bar staff to the musical collaborators, and most of all to each person who turned up and made the evening such a truly special event.

Karl Harrison

Everybody Needs Good Neighbours

Christmas can be a nightmare for delivery drivers. On 27th November, an Evri driver went AWOL and took photos for half a dozen deliveries he claimed to have made at 11pm, with his hand firmly over his phone camera lens. Perhaps that was the only way he could clock off for the day; fortunately, all the parcels turned up in the next day or so.

It's not easy, either, finding houses in rural areas with names and no number, especially if they don't receive regular deliveries. We managed to turn away three drivers from our house, who were convinced it must be Thornbridge Lodge, since the postcode DE45 1TS on the label was Station Road, but we then came back one evening to find a fourth one on the doorstep. Royal Mail's postcode finder reveals a Thornbridge Cottage, Thornbridge Manor and North Lodge, but with postcode DE45 1NY and Thornbridge in the address, not Station Road or DE45 1TS.

The name on the parcels was Jordy Lucas, and a quick Google suggested this might be an Australian actress, who played Summer Hoyland in *Neighbours* from 2010-13, reappearing in November 2023. Could the non-existent address (to Royal Mail at any rate) be one of the holiday lets by the station? Rather than wait to check this with Adam Edwards, a quick call to Peak Venues confirmed that they had a group of Ozzies in residence there. Confusingly, the company lists the properties on their website as Thornbridge Lodge and Manor Cottage, with the equally portmanteau address of Station Road, Great Longstone DE45 1NY. No wonder the poor delivery drivers got so confused. A quick message to Jordy Lucas on Facebook elicited that they were indeed her parcels, and her husband came round to collect the missing one the next day.

Jordy's husband, Henry Platt, has close connections with the Peak District as, although he was born in Sydney, his parents moved back to Bakewell when he was young. Jordy met him in 2017, when he moved to Melbourne (Australia), and they married in 2022, after three attempts had been

frustrated by Covid and the subsequent lockdowns.

The Platts thoroughly enjoyed their recent stay, as they both love Chatsworth, and they saw their first panto in Buxton which was a huge hit with their daughter. Jordy says she always feels as if she's in the movie *The Holiday* when she's in our part of the world, as it's so beautiful.

For those of you who are not *Neighbours* addicts, Summer Hoyland is one of the most recognisable personalities to emerge from the soap opera, quickly becoming a favourite for her spirited nature and the warm yet sometimes turbulent family dynamics that shaped her life. Over more than a decade of appearances, Summer evolved from a mischievous child into an ambitious young woman determined to make her mark on the world. **Adam Rae-Smith**



Jordy Lucas at a recent appearance on Radio Derby

February Farming Notes



After a wet September, October, November **and** December, we finally got a change in the weather in late December, when the rain stopped and temperatures dropped. Despite the cold temperatures bringing extra work on the farm, I enjoyed it more than grey skies and rain! Seeing a sunrise followed by blue sky seems to lift my spirits, and Derbyshire looks especially stunning on a clear day.

The main concern was the sub-zero temperatures, which caused troughs and pipelines to freeze over. Breaking the ice takes some time – it's not a huge task, but after a few days of cold and the water not running at all, the troughs were solid ice with no water underneath – just chunks of ice. The cattle drink a fair amount, so we were doing daily trips back and forth taking water to two groups of cattle. The ice was also very thick, and I had to use a sledgehammer for a couple of days! Nick was happy because one of his 'ideas' came in very useful. In the summer, he had installed a pond heater to the trough close to the farm, so we were able to turn this on and it stopped the water from freezing. He had a big smile on his face as a result! It worked great for the seven cattle near to the farm, but it isn't something we can install everywhere, because it needs access to electricity.

We've also had confirmation that the two bulls passed and received their certificates for being pedigree Highlands, which is exciting, and hopefully we will get some nice homebred calves in the future. We have had a hire bull for three seasons and before that we had our own stock bull but he wasn't pedigree.

After a little bit of snow (I think we got off lightly), it all melted and now we are back to being rather soggy and drab! I enjoyed the sunny cold days and am really looking forward to signs of spring now. I noticed that the birds are singing more joyfully, and there are some snowdrops and bulbs poking up through the ground now.

Finally, I want to mention the lovely Plough Sunday service organised and taken by Alison Fletcher at Ashford Church. An ancient tradition on the first Sunday after Epiphany is to have a church service with the focus on giving thanks and blessings for the plough, and for good success in farming for the year ahead. Without food, where would we be? Yet somehow, it can be taken for granted. Farmers don't always enjoy the right conditions for the harvest to be abundant, but we carry on in hope and faith regardless!

Joanna Shimwell

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Dear All,

There's plenty going on in February! The first week marks National Story Telling week, National Apprenticeship week, World Wetlands Day, World Cancer Day and the UNICEF Day For Change. And later in the month, we can look forward to National Chip Week to celebrate "the nation's favourite food" along with several other days of more serious reflection. Alongside these recent additions to the national calendar, the Christian festivals of Candlemas, Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday still have meaning and significance.

Candlemas, on 2nd February, remembers the time when Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to be presented at the Temple. On seeing the child, Simeon proclaimed Jesus as 'A light to lighten the gentiles'. Light is necessary for life and growth as well as for seeing clearly. The Sanctuary light in church reminds us of God's constant presence with us, and many of us like to light a candle at home or in church to help us connect with God. At Candlemas, many churches bless the candles that will be used in church during the coming year.

February is also associated with romantic love and the celebration of Valentine's Day. According to legend, Valentine was a Roman priest, martyred for his faith in the early days of the church because he had secretly

married Christian couples. In another legend, he signed his letter to a friend 'from your Valentine', which may be the origin of the cards we send today. We may never know the full details of St Valentine's story but we remember him for his faithful witness to the gospel at a time when Christians were undergoing brutal persecution for their faith. This year, Valentine's Day falls shortly before Ash Wednesday, allowing little time to enjoy flowers and chocolates before Lent begins.

Lent and love are deeply connected in Christianity for Lent is a season for working on our relationship with God through honesty, reflection and self-discipline. On Ash Wednesday, the sign of the cross is made in ashes on our forehead and we are urged to repent and turn back to God with the sombre reminder that 'you are but dust, and to dust you shall return'.

Lent recalls the forty days alone in the wilderness when Jesus wrestled with temptation, but the experience taught him hard but important truths and provided him with new insight and strength. This is why our own observation of Lent should give us hope that we too may discover new understanding and turn us away from self-centeredness to embrace God's transformative love and live a more Christ-like life. Ash Wednesday speaks of a love that is stronger than death,

and a lover who has conquered death on our behalf. Whether or not we are on the receiving end of roses on this Valentine's Day makes no difference to the passion that sent Jesus to the Cross on our behalf. We are all held in the love of God who loves us in this lifetime and in the lifetime to come.

Rev Brenda Jackson

Lent Activities in the Benefice

Imposition of Ashes Services

Ash Wednesday 18th February

12 noon Bakewell church

7pm St Giles and Ashford churches

Daily Prayers (during Lent)

8.45am St Giles

Ecumenical Lunchtime Reflection

followed by soup lunch

Thursdays 26th February-26th March

12 noon Bakewell church

Ecumenical Bible Study

Holy Habits led by Rev Tim Morris

Wednesdays in Lent from 18th Feb

2pm Bakewell Methodist Church

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond

07935 873930

cubanheel26@btinternet.com

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

Lent Prayers in St Giles Chancel 8.45am
Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve (not Sundays)
+A-Ashford

1st February – Candlemas

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

8th February – 2nd before Lent

10.30am Sung Eucharist (St Giles) (+A)

15th February – Sunday before Lent

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

18th February – Ash Wednesday

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

25th February – Lent 1

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



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Kelly Mullins' Lemon Posset with Shortbread

Kelly Mullins, Thornhill House's creative cook, served up this delicious recipe to the delighted residents. A posset was originally a hot drink of milk curdled with spiced wine or ale; it was later reborn as a creamy dessert, similar to a syllabub.

First zest all of the lemons, then squeeze half a lemon at a time

Posset:

650 ml double cream

200g caster sugar

4 lemons

Shortbread:

150g butter

90g caster sugar

145g plain flour

least 3 hours to set. Ideally make them the day before.

Take the butter out of the fridge and cut it into small cubes about 4mm on each side. The butter must be cold! Now rub the butter into the flour in a large bowl (or

use a mixer) to form a fine breadcrumb-like texture. Add the sugar, and use your hands to form the shortbread, before rolling and cutting into shapes. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper, sprinkle the shortbread shapes with sugar and bake for about 20 to 25 minutes in a preheated oven at 160°C (Gas Mark 3). Enjoy!



February in the Garden

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

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

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

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

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

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

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What's On

Mondays & Thursdays - Under 5s Time to Play, Bakewell Library 10am (page 18)
Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesdays - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 19)
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
4th February - LEAP Men's Cooking Group, GL Village Hall 10am-12 (page 13)
4th February - WI Alison Walther talk, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 16)
9th February - LEAP Meditation Group, GL Village Hall 6.45-8pm (page 13)
11th February - Peak Music Concert, Cavendish Hall Edensor 7.30pm £20 (page 3)
17th February - LL History Group Talk *Cheese Making*, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 3)
19th February - Arts Talk *Sculpture in the Making*, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 9) £5
22nd February - Micklemas at The Monsal Stable Bar, 5.30pm (page 15)
22nd February - Live and Local *Helios*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 9) £13.50
25th February - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 13)
25th February - Village Surveys Update Meeting, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 12)
26th February - Film Club *Blue Road*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 13) £5

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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

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Mon-Fri 8am - 6.30pm

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Reception 01246 582216

District Nursing Team 01332 564900

Health Visitor 01246 515100

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Anyone Mention Brass Monkeys?



I took this photo on 12th January at my early morning swim in the nearby open-air Hathersage pool. Despite the air being a chilly -10°C, the water by comparison at 24°C was delightful – until the moment came to emerge from the warm water and walk back across the snow-covered pool side again! **David Davidson**

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 18th February

Please submit larger items, or give notice of the space you need, by the previous Sunday if at all possible.

Photos should preferably be at least 1MB (1500x1500 pixels) and in colour. Printed photos should be scanned at 300 or 600 dpi. We can scan material if you do not have access to a scanner.

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

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