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# UNDER THE EDGE

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

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From One Set of Peaks to Another



Michelle Longsdon has wanted some Valais Blacknose sheep (or *Schwarznasenschaf*) for ages, and last year she and Jim bought two ewes, *Grove Hall Kylie* and *Grove Hall Katie*, and a tup, *Wichwar Kaleb*. Last year, they had two male lambs and this year the ewes are expecting one lamb each. The breed originated in the Valais canton of Switzerland in the fifteenth century, and were first imported to the UK in 2014. Their small black faces, combined with soft white fleece, earned them the reputation of the 'cutest sheep in the world', with many doubting on first seeing them whether they are actually real and not woollen mascots! Accustomed to harsh mountain environments, the sheep are strong and easily adaptable, their size and robust physique make them particularly good for meat, while their wool is considered perfect for carpets, mattress filling and felting.

They enjoy human contact – Michelle says the ewes follow her about, but she wouldn't trust the tup as he has already sent Jim flying! Apparently, many residents of Upper Valais now keep them as pets because of their placid nature. They are simple to care for and highly intelligent, as well as being easy to bucket train. Combine this with their striking appearance and you have the perfect pet sheep! Their fleece grows up to 12 inches a year, so Michelle has them sheared in March and again in September. It is thought that they were the forefathers of the many coloured breeds found along the trading routes the Norsemen took a thousand years ago. Unlike most breeds of sheep, Valais sheep breed all year round and are not seasonal.

**Ali Plowright**

## February Gardening Notes



A month ago, I was saying how wet and miserable it was and hoping for better weather in February. Well, that didn't happen, so here's hoping for March. At least we will be getting noticeably more daylight as the spring equinox arrives (longer days than nights). The spring flowers in the borders continue to put on a fine display (*see photos of cyclamen and hellebores*), and March will herald a fine display of daffodils. It is the best time to split up snowdrops after they have flowered and spread them round the garden. Other plants, such as hellebores and cyclamen, will seed themselves for a larger display next year.

Cut down any ornamental grasses now, as the new growth will be emerging. The mahonia put on a great display of yellow flowers a couple of months ago so I will now give it a

good trim so that a new flush of foliage will emerge.

Things are starting to happen in the greenhouse as plants wake up from their winter hibernation. I will start to slowly introduce water to succulents and cacti that have been kept dry throughout the last six months. I will keep sowing more seeds in my propagator for the coming season as things start to warm up, but will keep away from the allotment as the soil is far too wet and cold.

Peas, broad beans, onions, leeks, sweet peas, brussels and cabbage can be sown to set off the growing season. If anyone is interested, I will be doing a container gardening demonstration in the Village Hall on 22nd April between 2pm and 4pm.

**Andy Hanna**

## Home and Community Energy Workshop

On the evening of 21st January, approximately 35 residents braved the rain to attend the Home and Community Energy Workshop at the Village Hall. We listened to fascinating talks from local homeowners, including Tim from Field House, Moor Road, Ali and Geoff from Outrake House, Little Longstone, as well as Rob from Curbar, who shared their experiences of improving their homes' heating and energy performance through technologies such as solar panels, batteries and air source heat pumps. Their honesty in sharing both successes and challenges was hugely appreciated, and I certainly came away with plenty of insight into what to prioritise and what to avoid.

We then heard from Rob at the Marches Energy Agency, who shared insights into the services the charity offers homeowners, including diagnosing issues and proposing improvements through tools such as thermal imaging to identify draughts and insulation problems. A key takeaway from Rob's talk was that you don't need to aim for perfection when retrofitting or invest in every possible measure – making even a few targeted changes can have a significant impact. He also stressed the importance of recognising that every home is unique, regardless of age, and that it's essential to spend time assessing which solutions are right for your specific property.

Finally, Imran from Pluggy, an energy consultancy that helps design and implement renewable community energy

schemes, shared insights into the types of projects they deliver. The potential of these schemes seems really exciting, and hopefully upcoming legislative changes will make them more achievable for communities to implement.

Thank you to Andy, Sam and Jonathan from the Climate Mitigation and Renewable Energy workstream within the Longstone Area Neighbourhood Plan for organising such an informative evening.

If anyone is interested in arranging for a Home Energy Survey, with Marches Energy Agency, please contact [robert@mea.org.uk](mailto:robert@mea.org.uk).

**Alexa Masterhorn**



## The Italian Job



This was one of the most ambitious Men's Cooking classes yet. Three separate recipes and all in one morning session on 4th February! The theme was quick and easy (relative terms for some of us!) Italian dishes.

The first item on the agenda was Puttanesca sauce, a spicy and tangy sauce intended to give an umami flavour to our gnocchi dish. According to a local expert, *puttana* is the Italian word for prostitute, and the sauce was devised by them as something that could be cooked quickly in between clients' visits – saucy indeed!

To go with the saucy sauce, we made Cheats' Gnocchi, using ricotta and parmesan cheese with herbs and lemon zest to provide a light, fresh feel to the gnocchi (no potatoes were harmed in the preparation of this recipe). This was the first time most of the group had made gnocchi and it was really straightforward to prepare. True, you end up with a very sticky dough that requires rolling into sausage shapes before cutting up, but a very liberal use of flour resolves the problem. Placed in a pan of boiling water, the gnocchi cooks

in minutes and you cannot go wrong, because it just rises to the top of the water when ready – amazing.

To finish off our Italian meal, we made Quick Tiramisu, which was pretty much an assembly dish with a bit of whisking and layering of some delicious ingredients. There was very little faffing about involved in making this quite luxuriously rich dessert. As a technical note, the acid test of when the mascarpone, double cream and custard mixture reaches the correct consistency is to hold the bowl upside down over your head, as tested and proven by Andy Davis.

Big thanks again to the ever wonderful and patient Annie Davey and Julia Morgans, without whom none of this would be happening. The fact that our group is growing in numbers since that first session is testament to all their hard work.

Following on from the success of our Indian-themed cooking evening last year, surely an Italian night is looming – watch this space!

Ciao a tutti,

**Jeremy Cotterill**



## Classical Brass



Peak Music's concert at the Cavendish Hall, Edensor, on 7th March promises a stirring selection of classical pieces arranged for a brass ensemble.

Connaught Brass may be known to classical music fans from their appearances on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*

programme, and they have performed at major concert halls throughout Europe. They are known not only for their technical ability and vibrant approach, but also for their warmth and accessibility, which leads to a unique connection with audiences.

Their afternoon concert for Peak Music, beginning at 4.30pm, will include works by Mozart, Handel and Bach, but the highlight is likely to be selections from Bernstein's ever popular *West Side Story*.

Tickets are available from the Peak Music Society website [peakmusicsociety.org.uk](http://peakmusicsociety.org.uk) at £30 or £5 for those in full-time education, to include drinks and canapés after the performance.

**Maurice Unwin**



## Who Ran Our Villages, or What did the Township Constable Actually Do?

Before Great Longstone had a Parish Council, the work of local administration was carried out at township level. The township of Great Longstone and Holme, like its neighbours Little Longstone, Rowland, Wardlow and Hassop, appointed a Township Constable each year. His job combined parts of what we would now call community support, minor policing, and local infrastructure management.

Fortunately, the Constable's Account Book for Great Longstone survives, covering the years 1791 to 1839, and it provides a clear picture of what the role involved. It is an unusually complete and informative record, showing how everyday responsibilities were handled by the community itself. It was transcribed and edited during the 1950s by Robert Thornhill, and published by the Local History Section of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The full document is available online.

### Relief for Travellers with a Pass

One of the constable's most frequent duties was providing small payments to travellers who were on the move through the parish. Under the vagrancy and settlement laws, a person who was travelling legally would carry a pass indicating where they were permitted to travel to and from. The township was responsible for assisting them only as far as the next parish boundary – no more, no less. The accounts contain many such entries, including:

- *Gave five men with a pass 1s.* (1801–02)
- *Gave a man & his wife & three children with a pass 1s.* (1811)

One shilling (1s) – for those born since the 1960s – is the same as 5p, but in the 1800s would have had the spending power of £3. These are small amounts, but they appear regularly, showing the constant movement of people along the main routes across Longstone Edge.

### The Remarkable Case of the 8 Americans

One of the most unexpected entries in the account book reads, *Gave 8 Americans with a pass 2s.* (1809). This is unusual but historically understandable. During the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815), many American sailors were detained in

In summary, the Longstone Constable's Accounts show a system of:

Function of Township	Example from Accounts
Managing travellers under settlement law	Payment to families with a pass
Minor public order	Attendance at Petty Sessions
Village infrastructure	Repair of the Pinfold; work at the Cross
Local continuity of community authority	Annual rotation of local men as officials

Britain as prisoners-of-war or maritime internees, especially after disputes over naval impressment. Groups of repatriated prisoners or discharged seamen sometimes travelled inland on officially sanctioned routes.

The Longstone entry shows our township assisting a group of such men as the law required – and then sending them onward. It is a small notation, but an extraordinary reminder of how global conflict could leave its footprints, even in small Derbyshire villages.

### Local Duties and Village Infrastructure

The Constable was also responsible for maintaining order and property within the township. The account book records included payments for:

- The Pinfold (the township enclosure for stray animals):
  - *Paid for repairing the Pinfold walls.* (1835–36)
  - *Paid for a new lock for Pinfold door.* (1835–36)
- Maintenance of public fixtures such as the Village Cross:
  - *Paid Thomas Hill for work done at the Cross.* (1806)

Such entries show that the task of keeping the village functioning was handled locally, informally, and collaboratively.

### What the Constable Did Not Do

It is equally important to note what does not appear in the Constable's Accounts:

- Regular support for local widows
- Fuel or clothing relief for settled parishioners
- Medical costs for residents

Those responsibilities belonged to the Overseer of the Poor, recorded in a separate set of account books. The Constable's relief role was primarily temporary, transitional, and linked to the legal duty to help travellers along their route. This distinction helps explain why each township kept its own administrative identity, long before the creation of civil parishes in 1866 and the Parish Council system in 1894.

This was local government before local councils – rooted not in bureaucracy, but in custom, responsibility, and shared community life.

**Simon Headington**


## Thornhill House Update

We have now exchanged contracts with the owners of the Grange, and we expect to complete the sale within the next 12 months. Now that the property purchase has successfully gone through the legal phase, we are proceeding with the planning process at full speed and hope to show people

around soon and share our plans. However, as The Grange remains in the ownership of the vendors and as such is still private property, we would therefore ask people not to visit the property without prior arrangement.

Lucy Wright





## Warmer Homes for Bakewell

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 2 pm**  
**Friends Meeting House Bakewell**

Join us for an engaging session where a panel of Bakewell residents, living in different types and ages of houses, will share their experiences of successes and lessons learnt when upgrading and installing:

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## The Longstone School 2026 Challenge – Please Help!

Back in January, FOLS invited the children of Longstone School to take part in our 2026 Challenge raising money to fund much-needed equipment for the children to use in Forest School. The idea is simple (but powerful!):

- Each child aims to raise £20.26
- Each class aims to raise £202.60
- The whole school aims to raise £2,026
- Children are welcome to raise more or less — every single pound makes a difference!

### Evie Is Going BIG for 2026!

One of Longstone School's amazing pupils, Evie, has decided to take the challenge to the next level. Evie has a real passion for swimming, so she's set herself an incredible goal – to swim a massive 10,000 metres by 27th March. An absolutely HUGE achievement for an 8-year-old!

While the original fundraising target was £20.26, Evie is dreaming bigger... Her new goal is to raise an incredible £2,026 – all by doing what she loves most.



### Double the Impact!

Even better news – **every penny** donated will be **doubled** thanks to generous match funding from Addleshaw Goddard LLP. That means:

- Your £5 becomes £10
- Your £10 becomes £20
- Your support goes twice as far

Please Support Evie by cheering her on and donating if you can - you can find Evie's Just Giving page on the Just Giving website by searching for 'Friends of Longstone School' on [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com).

Thank you for supporting our children and our school. Every contribution – big or small – truly makes a splash!

**Team FOLS**

## Exciting Times at Church Lane Farm!



After 125 years of selling fresh local milk to the village, we have decided to install a self-service vending machine at the end of March.

The new machine will allow customers to purchase the same fresh local pasteurised unhomogenised milk at their own convenience, dispensing milk into reusable bottles. Customers will be able to bring their own containers or purchase a reusable bottle on site.

There will also be a milkshake option offering a variety of flavours – perfect for an after-school treat!

**Tom and Dan Cox**

## Aladdin – A Magical Musical Adventure!



Local students aged 6–18 from Tilly Studios in Great Longstone are proud to present their 9th annual musical theatre show – *Aladdin*! Join us for this magical production running from 19th–22nd March at Tilly Studios in the Great Longstone Business Park off Beggarway Lane (Thursday/Friday 6.30pm, Saturday/Sunday 2pm and also 7.15pm), *Aladdin* is a magical musical adventure filled with unforgettable songs, dazzling costumes, and high-flying fun. Follow Aladdin, Jasmine, and the Genie on a journey of friendship, courage, and discovery. Packed with humour, heart, and spectacular moments, this family-friendly show is perfect for audiences of all ages.

Use the QR code to book tickets (email [info@tillystudios.com](mailto:info@tillystudios.com) for ticket information), price £16 (OAPs and Under-11s £12). Come along and support our talented young performers in this dazzling show for all the family!

**Emma Hopkins**



## March Local Government Update

Another County Council by-election result to report. The late January by-election in Horsley, Amber Valley, was won by Lian Pizzey for the Green Party with 44% of the vote; the Reform candidate was second with 35% and Conservative third on 14%. Overall turnout was 29%. It's interesting to compare this to the May 2025 full County Council election result for Horsley, which the Reform candidate won with 35% to the Green Party's 27%, with the Conservatives on 23%, and turnout of 39%. Way back in May 2021, at the previous full Council elections, the Conservative candidate won with 63%, to Labour on 23% and the Green Party on 11% (2021 turnout % was unavailable, but the number of voters was about 170 more than in 2025).

Turnout in local government elections is historically low, and by-elections often attract little interest. But overall voter participation is decreasing across all types of elections. Our last Longstone and Calver District Council by election was decided in November 2024 with a turnout of 33%. Our East Midlands Mayor was elected on a turnout of 27.5%. Turnout in the Derbyshire Dales in the 2024 general election was 69.9%, but even that was a decrease of 5.6% on 2019. We live in a world where social media seems to be full of people who have opinions on everything, but fewer and fewer people feel motivated to vote, even when the people they are (not) voting for will make decisions that have a direct impact on their daily lives.

Unfortunately, paying close attention to Derbyshire County Council meetings (on YouTube at [@Derbyshireecc](https://www.youtube.com/@Derbyshireecc)) doesn't make one feel more like voting. The February full council meeting was a mammoth session of 5 hours, in part because of a considerable amount of point scoring and grandstanding by various councillors. The bulk of the session was spent discussing the budget, and started with an exchange over whether Reform had promised to lower taxes when standing for election in May. Apparently, the words 'reduce waste and cut your taxes', which appeared on a Reform leaflet around the May 2025 elections, didn't apply to council tax.

Of course, the Reform administration at DCC had tried hard to reduce waste, but given the years of local government underfunding, there was little scope for savings. In fact, they were putting up council tax by 4.9% in order to protect frontline services. Given that Derbyshire's Reform Councillors include a number of people who have been involved in politics for a long time, mostly as Conservatives, but also as Labour/UKIP/Brexit Party in the case of Alan Graves, Reform's Leader of the Council, the chronic underfunding of local government should not have come as a surprise. However, Reform were proud that they weren't proposing to put council tax up by the maximum allowed

increase of 4.99%. That 0.09% would save the average hardworking family in Derbyshire £1.47 a year.

Conservative councillors argued that 4.9% was still too much for residents to bear, and argued that the council's reserves should be used to reduce the rise to 3.9%, apparently on the basis that they don't want to hand over any spare money to the unitary authority that is due to replace the County Council in April 2028. The Labour leader pointed out that Derbyshire residents were paying more to receive less. Five adult education centres have already closed, eight care homes are due to close and now Glossop tip joins the list of savings Reform has made by closing public services.

Although Glossop tip has not yet closed, a spirited attempt to retain it was made by the Councillor for Glossop North, Jean Wharmby (Cons), who suggested an amendment to save the tip, which would only cost £300,000 and which could be paid for by the unexpected £2.6 million that had just been allocated to Derbyshire as part of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement. There was much discussion about the possible rise of fly tipping, and the difficulty for Glossop residents of travelling to the tip in Buxton given the geography of the area, particularly in winter. The case for closing the Glossop tip was that it was the least used of Derbyshire's tips, and also that it was used by people from outside Derbyshire. Although, as the number plate recognition system (which we are familiar with at Darley Dale) is apparently not publicised at Glossop, it was not clear how they could tell which non-registered cars were not from Derbyshire.

Stephen Reed (Clay Cross and Tupton, Reform) then said it didn't matter anyway, as it was only the proposal to close the tip that was in the budget, and there would be a consultation process to collect residents' views. Which does beg the question, how can it be a saving if they really haven't made the decision to close it yet? And if closing the centre is in the budget, does that mean it's a foregone conclusion, whatever the consultation says?

The proposed budget was approved unaltered, so we are getting a 4.9% council tax rise and Glossop tip is still under threat. Despite all the finger pointing in the meeting, the long-term underfunding of local government goes back to Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s. Sam Freedman's book, *Failed State*, subtitled 'Why Nothing Works and How We Fix It', gives a good account of how power and funding has been taken away from local government over the past decades. The book is available from Derbyshire Libraries (you can reserve it online) – like buses, libraries are another thing we need to use so we don't lose them!

**Georgina Blair**

## Mile High Farming

Many UTE readers will know that I have reported from my daughter's farm in East Africa before. We are here again for Christmas and the next couple of months before returning to Great Longstone, only to leave the village for the last time. The editors suggested I give an update on the goings on at the farm – so here goes!

For those who are unfamiliar with Ndoto Farm, it's aptly named, as Ndoto in Swahili means 'dream' – it can also mean 'nightmare' depending on context! My daughter Emma and her husband Hartmut bought it 17 years ago as a very rundown 500-acre dairy farm, over 1,700 metres high, in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

When we first visited, it was served by an unpaved road 45 minutes from the main Tanzam Highway, halfway between the principal city, Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean, and the Zambian border. This single-carriage road is now the only route Zambia has to the Indian Ocean ports for all imports and exports – imagine 'the only road out of Derbyshire', multiplied many times with only ancient and often unroadworthy trucks taking the load.

Initially, there was no mains electricity and all power came from unreliable, single cylinder Chinese generators. Water from an abundant river had to be pumped by tractor or diesel pumps at huge expense during the dry season, which usually runs from May to December. There was no power problem in the dairy, as milking was by hand into churns taken daily to the local town by tractor.

Eventually power was installed, and over the years an extensive network of piping brought water to the lower half of the farm. The upper half is mostly miombo woodland and unsuitable for grazing.

Sixteen years on, everything has changed through hard work and determination, despite the often hostile environment and less than cooperative government agencies. The total cattle numbers are up to 550, with up to 200 being milked. Cooled tanks are in place, secondhand of course, and at least one from a Derbyshire farm. Tankers take the milk three times a week to Dar es Salaam, which is a better market, albeit 500km away. At least the road to the farm is now paved (almost), making the trip to the local town Iringa only 30 minutes, half the time it used to take.



The main difference to the herd is the addition last year of 100 East African Zebu heifers. These are very small, hardy local cattle more used to the conditions. These have been employed partly to clear the miombo areas, thus opening it up to better grazing, and partly in a new and very successful form of high-density grazing. Effectively, in a restricted paddock, the dairy cows get the first and best grazing, and they are followed in turn by heifers, the dry herd (young and pregnant cows), and finally the new Zebu herd accompanied by 120 sheep. This leaves not only a well-eaten paddock,

but one that is also well fertilised and so, with a little more artificial fertiliser, water (irrigated in the dry months) and bright sun, comes back into the grazing cycle within four or five weeks. Thus, only 250 acres support 500 cattle and produce over 3,000 litres of high-quality Jersey milk daily.

I say only 250 acres, as some 35 acres were four to five years ago turned into avocado orchards. From stock grafted in their own nursery, 5,000 trees have been planted, each with its own irrigation dripper, and a banana plant to provide initial shade to stop the saplings getting sunburnt. After only two years, fruit appears, courtesy of scores of hives of bees and thus much honey! Avocados are mainly harvested in June and July and later in November. The latter is convenient as this when most of the world's production is not yet ripe, but consumers require a year-round supply.



*Avocados for the local market*

The intended market for the fruit was Europe, and we were looking forward to seeing the Tanzania stamp in Waitrose, but shipping costs via the Suez Canal have become prohibitive, and sailing via the Cape takes too long. Fortunately, an excellent market is now available in India, and with a new sorting and packing plant based locally, that's where they are headed.

Whilst some picking for the local market extends the season by many months, the principal crop this year yielded 50 tons! As the trees fully mature, they are expected to yield four times this amount. A small proportion of fruit is deemed unshippable, and these are processed into oil or guacamole.

Apart from the avocado orchards, the farm would be entirely recognisable to any dairy farmer in Derbyshire, with a few exceptions. Firstly, the irrigation infrastructure and sprinkler systems for use in the seven months without rain – not a situation found in the Peak District. Secondly, the lack of any JCBs. There are three ancient tractors and one more modern one for use with attachments, but no diggers! The entire irrigation network of 35km piping, including drinking



water for the cattle troughs, has been entirely achieved by hand. A five-man team of locally employed workers can dig a perfectly straight trench a metre deep and 50 metres long in a day, for less than the cost of maintaining and fuelling an excavator, whilst providing good pay for the local workforce, and without the high cost of importing even secondhand equipment.

Aside from the harvesting of the avocados, which also provides additional local employment, the trees need little looking after, apart from weeding, fertilising and irrigating, but the cows do. A Peak District farm milking 200 cows probably requires three or four people to run it. Ndotto farm employs forty, including those looking after the orchard. The dairy itself is not quite as automated and each herd has the constant attendance of a herdsman. The dairy equipment requires constant attention, and spares and trained mechanics are not readily available locally, so it is literally 'all hands to the pump' when there is a power cut

during milking. If the generator should fail, there are 200 cows to be milked by hand, which is quite a task, especially in the dark morning session which starts at 4am.

Diseases are also dealt with differently, mostly by vaccines, all imported and not cheap. The entire herd is dipped every week (twice a week in the 'rains') to reduce tick-borne problems. Inevitably, there are losses, and each one is thoroughly investigated. Where appropriate, the carcass is buried; otherwise the animal is butchered, with the best bits destined for the freezer and the remainder distributed to the staff.

Mile-high farming is somewhat different, in particular given the weather. The altitude keeps temperatures down – although the sun is especially fierce at midday, at night it can be quite cool. Rain comes in downpours and roads can be flooded, but it is nevertheless welcome on the farm, as the costly irrigation pumping is not needed until the dry season arrives.

**Richard Carter**

## Warm, Welcoming, Kind... Centre Ville!



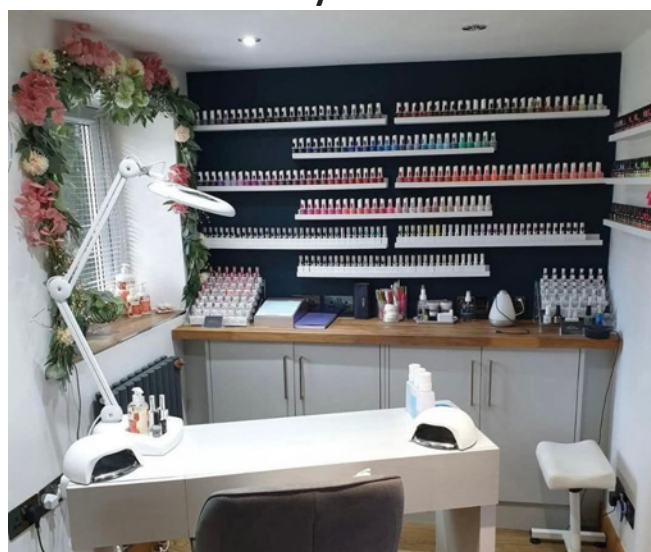
It doesn't matter that the weather has been cold and gloomy, making us all feel a bit 'under the weather'. Amazing people like Heather Turner in the shop, and Vic Holmes and all our farmers and friends generously share happiness, time, interest and ingenuity with folk. Heather was changing tractor tyres last week, now she's borrowing Vic's measuring wheel to plant trees and she'll be planting seeds, feeding the donkeys and who knows what else as soon as she goes home. She made delicious Christmas cakes and hundreds of mince pies for village events over Christmas. What an incredible woman. Thank you Heather and Will for being so much more than our Village Shop.

Vic, who has been a bit poorly lately, is always up to something for somebody – don't forget to take care of yourselves!

The Coxes' farm cowshed is a home from home in the yard, where there's always warmth, a smile and a cuppa. Only half the team were there when I visited one Sunday morning – Tom, Ella and Dan Cox and Beau the collie, John Shepherd, Neil Smart and Chris Davey. I'll have to repeat the photo when the other regulars are back on the couch. They might need to apply for an extension soon – everyone would benefit from a few minutes having a cuppa with you guys!

**Alison Waltho**

## Nails by Andrea



Andrea Cardona is a fully qualified and insured nail technician with 14 years experience. Her treatments include BIAB, extensions, manicures, pedicures and more in a 1-1 private studio on Glebe Avenue, Great Longstone. Text or call her on **07753 488138** for a price list or an appointment.

## Raising Hare



We were out walking on a Saturday in January in the snow, and saw so many hare prints and tracks in the snow that I took some pictures. Whilst we were taking photos of the paw prints, a huge hare came sprinting past – it was going so fast that I couldn't even get a picture. It was magnificent, and made me think how lucky we are to have so many hares living locally, and how fortunate we are to have such a thriving population.

I've just read a good book about hares, which I thought readers who love the countryside, and especially hares, might enjoy. The book is called *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton. It tells the story of how a high-flying Whitehall civil servant discovers a leveret and, after saving it from a circling buzzard, becomes utterly captivated while raising it during the Covid lockdown. It's a compelling and remarkable book that has been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

The author's website [chloedalton.uk](http://chloedalton.uk) promotes not only her book, but also Baroness Helic's recently introduced Private Members Bill in the House of Lords, which calls for establishing a close season during which the killing or taking of hares would be prohibited.

I also found some interesting statistics and encouraging data about hares:

### Recent Increases in Hares Show Promise

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), a charity that has undertaken more research on British hare populations than any other scientific organisation, has monitored hare populations for decades and reports that after 30 years of decline, brown hare numbers are showing promising signs of recovery. The Breeding Bird Survey, conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, also surveys mammal species. Their latest report shows that hare numbers have increased in the UK by 40% over the last 10 years.

This increase was most significant in England (50%), with more modest gains in Scotland (17%) and Wales (6%). Over the past 27 years (1996-2023), England saw the greatest increases in the East Midlands (96%), though the West Midlands experienced a 20% decline.

### Historical Context: A Century of Change

GWCT analysis of available records reveals fascinating historical patterns:

- *Early 20th Century:* In Edwardian times, hares were approximately twice as common as they were in the early 1990s.
- *Inter-war Period:* Hare numbers plummeted between the world wars during a farming recession when cereal cultivation dropped from three million hectares to under two million. The absence of gamekeepers, who were conscripted to fight, meant little predator control.
- *Post-War Recovery:* With the re-establishment of gamekeeping, hare numbers recovered as their predators were controlled again.
- *Peak Years:* Numbers peaked in 1961, boosted by the absence of rabbits following the Myxomatosis epidemic, which reduced competition for food.
- *Modern Decline and Recovery:* A 30-year decline lasted until the mid-1990s, caused mainly by the abandonment of traditional mixed farming in favour of modern methods.

### International Patterns

This UK hare decline mirrored patterns across Europe – Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, and later Poland, all experienced similar losses. The decline paralleled the loss of farmland birds, including the grey partridge.

### Conservation Action and Results

Following The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Britain established a comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 1995. The brown hare was selected as a priority species, with ambitious goals to double the population by 2010 and maintain its geographic range.

The plan focused on improving agri-environment schemes, reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and making better use of set-aside land. The Game Conservancy Trust and the Mammal Society became joint lead partners, producing valuable guidance for farmers and land managers.

### Modern Challenges to Hare Survival

Beyond habitat changes, several practical factors affect hare mortality:

- *Silage Making:* Most grassland used by hares for dropping leverets in spring becomes deadly during silage cutting from early May onwards, when grass is harvested for winter livestock feed.
- *Reduced Gamekeeping:* Fewer full-time gamekeepers mean less control of legally manageable predators like foxes, crows, and stoats, increasing leveret mortality.
- *Protected Predators:* As Chloe Dalton observed, the number of leveret predators that cannot be legally controlled – such as buzzards – is increasing due to protection measures.
- *Disease:* European Brown Hare Syndrome (EBHS), a highly contagious viral infection, causes high mortality in some areas within days of infection.

**Ali Plowright**

## Force of Nature



This photo shows the amazing water going over the weir at Cressbrook towards the end of January. The volume of snow melt was immense and the noise deafening. **Ali Plowright**

Rotary  
Club of Bakewell



## Bakewell Repair Café



Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March | 10am – 12pm  
Bakewell Methodist Church Hall  
Matlock Street, Bakewell

**DON'T BIN IT, FIX IT!!**

Refreshments  
Available



Repair Café is:

- Repairing broken items together
- Getting advice
- Encounters & inspiration
- And much more!!

Come along, bring your project and let's fix it together

The Repair Café is an initiative by Bakewell Rotarians for the benefit of our community.

We are a group of men and women who meet up to three times a month, usually at the Rutland Hotel, Bakewell for fellowship. Meetings are lively, enjoyable and regularly involve interesting speakers.

If you would like to find out more about us and think you might enjoy working with us and contributing: Be Our Guest. We would love to meet you and tell you about our Club. You will be made very welcome - and attendance at your first meeting will be free.

For more details contact: Ann Esders (aesders@aol.com (M) 07967 665580)

For further information, please feel free to contact the  
Coordinator, Margie on 01629 813638 or 07947 645331

## Longstone CE Primary School News



On 4th February, ten Year 5/6 children (picked 'out of a hat') attended the wheelchair basketball session at Darley Dale Primary School. They had a fabulous time learning to manoeuvre the wheelchairs, bouncing the ball whilst turning & moving & then putting the skills into mini basketball games. It's much harder than you think! They all said what a brilliant morning it was.



A great afternoon, despite tough weather conditions, at the Cluster 'High 5' tournament at Longstone on 5th February. All of Year 5/6 took part in four teams, three making it to the semi-finals, with the 'A' team beating Curbar in the final to be overall winners. The children all showed excellent skills and once again their teamwork and support of each other were fantastic. Well done to everyone!



Alison Waltho gave a most interesting talk about the Peak Wesley Way, showing slides of the chapels, the insides of some of the chapels, and the scenery along the way. The five-night pilgrimage starts in Matlock, with overnight stops in Youlgrave, Great Longstone, Baslow, Hathersage and Castleton, finishing in Edale. It is open to all faiths, giving challenging walks and beautiful landscapes and friendship, for groups of 2-6 people.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall – Scottish Herring Girls with Chris Unsworth. The competition is something Fishy (picture card, trinket and so on). **Zoe McGregor**

# mad4ink



## PERSONALISED PHOTO GIFTS



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### Mother's Day Gifts

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

info@mad4ink.co.uk | 01629 815455

## Bath Bomb Bakewell

www.bathbombbakewell.co.uk  
01629 815455



### Mother's Day Gift Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Wildflower Candles - £10

After you have used up your candle, plant the seed cover and watch me grow Wildflowers

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**LITTLE LONGSTONE PARISH MEETINGS**  
**Little Longstone Chapel at 7pm**  
**Monday 9th March**  
**Annual Meeting Thursday 28th May**

**Longstone Week - Save the Dates!**

This year, Longstone Week will run from the evening of Friday 10th through to Sunday 19th July.

Events will take place across both villages and will include cricket matches, Well Dressings, PCC Open Gardens, FOLS Summer Fete, LASRA Sports Day, lots of music and other events including cafes and local history talks & displays.

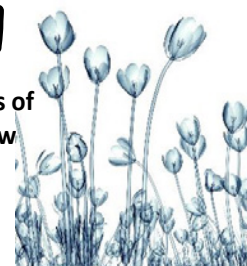
More details to follow, **Simon Headington**




# SPRING 2026 WHAT'S ON

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

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



DATE	EVENT INFORMATION	Charge
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	<b>Leaf plates - Ceramics Workshop</b> We welcome Mel MacDonald back for an evening workshop making and glazing leaf plates.	<b>£15</b> Book online or email.
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10 a.m - 4 p.m	<b>Sewing Workshop with Marge Elliot</b> The first sewing workshop of the year will focus on “getting to know your machine”	<b>£10</b> Book online or email.
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1 p.m – 4 p.m.	<b>Weaving Workshop</b> 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.	<b>£5</b> Book online or email.
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr 10 a.m. - 12	<b>Men's Cooking Group</b> This Spring our workshop will be exploring the flavours of Italy. All welcome!	<b>FREE</b> Email to book
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2 p.m – 4 p.m.	<b>Container Gardening Demonstration</b> Andy Hanna will share his horticultural expertise to show how to create interesting planting for a variety of containers.	<b>FREE</b> Email to book
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar, 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun 20 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Monday Monthly Meditation Group</b> Sophie Stephenson expertly and gently guides these monthly meditation sessions. New members are welcome. <b>6.45 p.m. arrival 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.</b>	<b>FREE</b>
Film Club Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30 p.m.	<b>Blue Road: The Edna O'Brien Story</b> 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.	<b>£5</b> On the door
Film Club Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30 p.m.	<b>The Choral</b> 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.	<b>£5</b> On the door
Film Club Thu 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7.30 p.m.	<b>Dead of Winter</b> 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.	<b>£5</b> On the door
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Book Swap Café - last Wednesday of every month</b> <b>2 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b> Bring a couple of books to swap and join us for tea or coffee, a slice of cake and a chat.	

## Parish Council Notes

*The following are extracts from the official minutes from the GL Parish Council meeting on 14th January. These are published on the Parish Council noticeboard outside Longstone School as well as the village website [greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk](http://greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk).*

### Attendance

Cllrs J Rigby (Chair), P Barrett, J Cox, A Douglass, S Hornsey, S Headington (Clerk) and one member of the public.

### Clerk's Report

Allotment holders emailed new tenancy agreements, Housing Needs Survey, safety inspection of Cherry Tree on Village Green, issues relating to Moor Road, arranging Carols on Xmas Eve, flooding in front of Village Hall, two Planning applications, worked on various policy updates, prepared draft plan for the Council for 2026/27 and linked to draft budget, submitted claim for reimbursable expenses to DDDC, made provisional bookings for Council meetings later in the year.

### Allotments

All tenants and prospective tenants have been sent a draft copy of the updated tenancy agreement and there had been no negative feedback. The final versions will be sent once the plots have been measured.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Wed 21st Jan - Evening workshop in the Village Hall open to all covering Home and Community Energy projects.  
Sun 15th Feb - Extended deadline for completion of the Community Survey. It was explained that a new round of publicity would be launched with paper copies of the application forms, posters around the village and flyers for sending home through the school 'book bags'. Printing expenditure approved on the understanding it would be reimbursed by PDNP. Wed 25th Feb - Evening meeting for the community with updates on the Housing and Community surveys.

### Housing Needs Survey

The interim report was shared with Councillors. A total of 93 responses of which 54 just answered the first question about opinions on additional housing with the community. The remaining 39 respondents completed the full survey. The Clerk is to accept the DDDC's Housing Needs and Research Officer's offer of a meeting to talk through the report and discuss the next steps regarding finding a suitable site.

### Recreation Ground

Cllr Barrett reported the new Tennis

Court noticeboard was ready to be put up when there was suitable weather.

### Village Green

A resident had reported concern that a bough of the Cherry Tree had a major split. A local tree surgeon recommended the tree's volume be reduced by around 30%, to make it safer and less likely to lose a branch. The Clerk will get another quote and accept whichever was best value.

### Old Infant School Building

Following the recent unsuccessful planning application, to turn the building into a domestic residence, it is now being marketed for rent for community uses. The current planning User Class is F1 and a planning application would be needed for a change to something similar to the village hall (Class F2). Cllr Douglass reported that there was interest in leasing the building for something along the lines of a 'Men's/Maker's Shed'. A number of local residents have agreed to guarantee the rental costs for the first year, if the project is successfully launched. Arrangements are being made to view the property and to get more details of the terms that a lease will be offered under.

### Camper Vans on Moor Road

This depends on whether they are parking on private land, or sections of the highway. The landowner's representative has said they are not interested in pursuing this. The Clerk will now liaise with DCC Highways Department. County Cllr Sutton will try to find a Highways contact for GLPC.

### Highways

**Moor Road:** A site meeting was held with County Cllr Sutton about overgrown verges and dangers from speeding cyclists meeting farm vehicles on narrow sections of the road.

**Gritting:** The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, was authorised to arrange for emergency gritting of roads during adverse weather. This is a temporary arrangement until a full Scheme of Delegation is in place.

### Christmas

**Tree:** This was provided by Jim and Wendy Long. Putting up, decorating, and removal was arranged by John Fawcett with help from others. John reported two of the light strings and a number of bulbs needed replacing. The Clerk will purchase the necessary replacements and thank the Longs.

**Xmas Eve Carols:** This was led by William Cole and was a great success. Thanks to Mr Cole for providing the

sound system and leading the event, David Beale for arranging the music, Mad4Ink for donating the carol sheet printings and the cllrs and community members who acted as safety wardens. A collection raised £353.99 - £70 was in electronic payments which GLPC have donated to LEAP. The remainder of £283.99 will be allocated to an appropriate project at a future date.

### Village Hall

The Management committee had reported flooding across the parking area. A drains survey confirmed the issue was on the highway and it has been reported to DCC Highways and County Cllr Sutton.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Plans for the APM on 29th April were discussed. The main objective will be to report back on the council's activities over the past year, to layout the plans for the coming year and to solicit feedback and ideas for the future. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be invited to feedback on progress, and the Thornhill House trustees given the opportunity to provide an update on their proposals to move to a new site. Other community organisations will be invited to give a very brief overview of their achievements during 2025 and plans for 2026/27.

### Planning Applications

Gritstone House, Moor Road NP/DDD/1025/1015. Demolition, rebuild and extension of outbuilding to give habitable accommodation. The delegated report stated 'the property is within the centre of the village where there is ample unrestricted on-street parking'. The Clerk is to write to PDNP to challenge this, as it is not the experience of many residents. **Granted with conditions**

Longstone Hall NP/DDD/0725/0657 & NP/DDD/0725/0658. Multiple changes. **No further updates**

Little House, Main Street NP/DDD/1025/1083. External and internal alterations to listed building.

### Granted with conditions

11 Edge View Drive NP/DDD/1225/1251. Proposed rear ground floor extension and first floor side extension (over existing garage and porch). **Granted**

### Staffing Committee

Terms of reference were approved. Membership is Cllrs Rigby, Douglass, Barrett and Hornsey. The chair will be elected on 29th January.

### Policies

**Reviewed and readopted:** Code

of Conduct, Website Accessibility Statement, Website Privacy Policy.

**Adopted:** Reserves Policy (subject to adding in a Play Equipment Replacement Reserve) - allows for the precepting and management of reserves (Parish Councils can only hold revenue reserves for working capital or specific earmarked purposes), Risk Management Policy and Risk Register (subject to some edits to remove duplicate words, add historic land contamination risk, and increase 'Risk Score After Control' as no Information Management Policy in place), Equality Policy.

**To be reviewed:** Information Technology Policy - this requires further review before it can be adopted. Cllr Hornsey will review the NALC template document and make recommendations.

**For discussion:** Biodiversity Policy - a resident will be reviewing this document.

**To be referred to Staffing Committee for decisions:** Dignity at Work Policy, Health and Safety Policy - only legally required if more than 5 staff, but NALC recommend that Councils have appropriate policy and risk assessments, Flexible working arrangements/Homeworking Policy, Recruitment Policy, Induction and Appraisal Arrangements, Sickness absence policy, Training and Development procedures, and Expenses policy.

#### **Parish Council Action Plan**

The plan for 2026/7 was approved.

#### **Financial Matters**

Cllr Hornsey noted interest rates obtained by GLPC were quite low. The Clerk to open a savings account with Unity Trust Bank. Income and expenditure to end of 2025 reviewed against budget. Draft budget and precept demand (£23,835) for 2026/7 were approved.

#### **Items from Councillors**

A question was asked about a tree that had fallen across Hardrake Lane (footpath WD/42/17/3). Cllr Cox offered to clear it.

#### **Dates of next meetings**

7pm Wednesdays 11th March, 13th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November. Annual Parish Meeting 7pm 29th April.

#### **Contact Details**

Simon Headington, Clerk to Great Longstone Parish Council, Church Croft, Church Lane, Great Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1TB. Tel: **07968 295258**. Email: **clerk@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk**

## **Training Opportunity to be a Home Energy Assessor**

Hope Valley Climate Action are looking for people who would be interested in taking up training (at no cost to themselves) in home energy efficiency assessment, with a view to then offering visits and advice to householders in the area. The intention is that this then leads to householders installing low-cost energy efficiency measures, which make their homes warmer, save fuel costs, and cut carbon emissions.

All they ask from you is a willingness to undertake a half-day training session, a willingness to have a DBS check (disclosure and barring service - formerly known as a criminal record check) at HVCA expense, and being prepared then to offer household visits and advice. There is also then the possibility of going on to do a three-day online or in-person course leading to the NVQ level III course in energy awareness.

The half-day course would cover:

- Home Energy Audits - how to spot opportunities to save energy, money & carbon, and identify issues in the home
- Energy Advice - general tips on how to keep householders and their property warm
- Installation of Low-Cost Measures - how to fit items such as LED lightbulbs, draught excluders and radiator foils
- Signposting - how to identify opportunities for the householder to obtain assistance via schemes such as Severn Trent Big Difference
- Grants - where householders can get advice on available grants.

If you are at all interested in taking up the free training, or simply want to know more, please email [info@hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk](mailto:info@hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk) with 'Home energy assessor training' in the subject line, and they will get back to you.

**Andy Douglass**

## **A Place for Us - a Lent Course based on West Side Story**

A lent course with a twist, based on the film West Side Story (2021). We will review scenes from the film related to passages from scripture.

Guided by the authors' structure, we hope to discuss and reflect on the themes of belonging, otherness and difference, fear, love, betrayal, death and reconciliation over six weeks, meeting every Monday from 4-5pm in the Village Hall. The first session on 23rd February might be up to 2 hours if you'd like to stay and watch the film.

- **Dates:** 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th March
- **Time:** 4-5pm
- **Place:** Village Hall, Great Longstone

*Everyone welcome  
Refreshments served  
Come along and try it!*

**Alison Waltho**



## **Reminder - There are No Dog Poo Fairies!**



Recently, there's been an increase again in the amount of dog poo left lying on our footpaths and lanes. In the narrow path at the bottom of the Dale Field, from Dale Farm towards Little Longstone, there were no less than six piles of ordure the other day - walkers have had to keep their eyes down to the ground to avoid the messes, instead of being able to admire the wonderful views.

Given the dreadful weather, it's highly unlikely to have been visitors who were responsible. So, please do pick up after your dog and dispose of the bag in one of the many bins - don't just leave it lying around. If your dog is off the lead and behind you, do keep an eye open to check he's not doing his doody behind you!

## LASRA AGM Report

On Wednesday 28th January, the Longstone Area Sports & Recreation Association held its first Annual General Meeting.

As Chair, I opened the official AGM, attended by Trustees and Members, to complete the formal business required by the Charity Commission. This included reviewing and signing off the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025, and confirming the routine resignation and reinstatement of two Trustee posts.

With the formalities concluded, we moved into a well-attended and lively open meeting. I presented the progress we have made over the past year, thanking the many people who have supported the formation of the charity, the leasing of the buildings on the Rec, and those who have given their time to maintain the grounds – helping keep the Rec the wonderful community space it is.

There is much to celebrate: cricket being played regularly, pickleball taking off, netball and tennis active, the odd croquet game, and the general enjoyment of a fantastic village asset. Looking ahead, we are excited about growing our sports offer, including interest in regular tennis sessions, ladies' cricket, and cricket coaching from Nick Gaywood.

Who? Nick played Minor Counties cricket, Sheffield Collegiate, Yorkshire Over 50s and 60s, and England Over 60s – scoring one of only two centuries in the history of the 'Grey Ashes', helping England beat Australia 3–1. He is the only player to have shared century stands with Matt, Billy and Joe Root. And he is Mrs Gaywood's (of Longstone Primary School) husband! This is an exciting opportunity – so if you want quality cricket coaching, details are provided in the accompanying cricket club article by Martin Pinder in this month's UTE edition.

We also have Sue Macdonald, who has kindly stepped forward to organise regular tennis. Sue will set up a WhatsApp group to get the club off the ground and hopefully grow participation to make the most of the new court. Please send expressions of interest to [info@lasra.co.uk](mailto:info@lasra.co.uk).

We then opened the floor for ideas to support sport and recreation in and around the village. First, there was a

message from the Parish Council regarding the odd ball going into gardens around the Rec. We must remind users that no one should climb walls to retrieve a ball. Instead, they must go to the property and ask permission. We then gathered a range of new ideas—these are early suggestions only, and each will need assessing for feasibility:

- Could we provide a bike facility, such as a pump track like the one in Eyam?
- Could the football pitch be levelled to improve playability?
- Could we remove bumps around the cricket square to improve bowlers' run-ups?
- Could we install a Pétanque court?
- Could we add a net for table tennis to stop balls blowing away?
- Could the School Sports Hall be used more, e.g., for indoor pickleball and table tennis?
- Could we set up archery?
- Should we purchase portable outdoor lights for the MUGA to support winter pickleball or football practice?
- Could we add a QR code to the loos to allow donations?
- Should we winterise the buildings, including the loos?
- Is there interest in regular croquet sessions?

We will review all suggestions – plus any new ones – on 19th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please come along and help shape the future of sport and recreation in Longstone.

I closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and encouraged people to sign up as members. Membership is in place in part to hold the trustees to account, but in the main to truly shape sport and recreation in the village. If you would like to be involved, please contact us using the email [info@lasra.co.uk](mailto:info@lasra.co.uk).

Thank you again to all who attended, those who helped establish LASRA, those who maintain the recreation ground, and everyone who continues to support the charity and its work for our community.

**Mike Meurer, LASRA Chair**

## Erosion

How much worse does this have to be eroded before something is done about it? First picture taken the other side of Longstone Hole Bridge, down by the A6020 in January last year. The other two were taken in February this year, showing the rapid deterioration.

### Name and Address supplied



## Great Longstone Cricket Club (GLCC) – 2026 Outlook



August. The ground will also host teams from Buxton and Sheffield University Staff, who have booked the facilities through to mid-September. The Rec will certainly be alive with cricket throughout the whole summer – so do please wander down and take the chance to enjoy some recreational sport in the most convivial of environments.

Last year, we ran our first English Cricket Board programmes for local children – All Stars (under-8s) and Dynamos (under-11s). Almost 40 children took part, around a third of them girls. Both programmes will return this year. The parents of children on last year's programme will receive an automatic email regarding enrolment for this season. For newcomers interested in participating, please contact me, Martin Pinder, at [marnevpin@gmail.com](mailto:marnevpin@gmail.com),

As I write this, snow is falling in Great Longstone, but by the time you read it, we'll be just six weeks away from the first fixtures of the 2026 season. Over the winter, the club has been busy preparing for what we hope will be another successful year, building on the progress made in 2025. Here's an update on what's been happening and what's planned for the months ahead.

To keep the Recreation Ground, and especially the cricket square, in excellent condition, all mowing and rolling machinery has been professionally serviced at Gunsons in Hillsborough. This work, funded by LASRA, included the gang mower, the square and wicket cylinder mowers, and the heavy roller, all serviced for the first time in at least six years. Weather permitting, mowing will begin in March, with rolling to follow on a dry square from late March or early April. If you're interested in joining our small but dedicated ground maintenance volunteers operating under the auspices of LASRA and aptly named Longstone Parks and Recreation Team, please contact David Richards at [pugrichards@gmail.com](mailto:pugrichards@gmail.com). Full familiarisation with the equipment and training will be provided.

LASRA also plans to repaint the exterior of the changing rooms and carry out repairs to the tea hut's wooden floor in the next few weeks. Volunteers for painting or joinery jobs would be very welcome – please contact Mike Meurer, the LASRA Chair, at [info@lasra.co.uk](mailto:info@lasra.co.uk).

The cricket club has also purchased a brand new cricket net. Although it is currently packed away in the changing rooms in a thousand pieces, and will require a working party pre-season to put together, it will prove a great asset to the club. Our thanks to LASRA, the Parish Council and Little Longstone for their generous support in the acquisition of the net. Outdoor nets should begin in April, and we are arranging indoor net sessions at Lady Manners Sports Hall throughout March. We also hope to have an experienced coach join us in early spring to support both returning players and newcomers – details will be posted on the Club's Facebook page, [facebook.com/GreatLongstoneCricketClub](https://facebook.com/GreatLongstoneCricketClub)

Our adult team has a full T20 fixture list, with weekday evening matches starting at 6pm from late April through early

gmail.com, or keep an eye on our Club Facebook page, where further details will be posted in mid-March. We are also hoping to attract enough Year 7 and Year 8 players to form an under-13 team for friendly matches, with the ambition of joining a league in the future. Lady Manners School is kindly supporting us in promoting this opportunity, so if you know any boys or girls who were under 13 as of 31 August 2025, then please do contact me, Martin Pinder, at [marnevpin@gmail.com](mailto:marnevpin@gmail.com).

Finally, we are very keen to establish a women's team in 2026. We plan to start with soft-ball cricket – a fun, fast, 40-minute format with no need for protective equipment, and with everyone bowling and batting. We already have a handful of interested players and would love to welcome more women and girls to register their interest and join our indoor net sessions in March. Please contact Wendy Hammond for further details at [whammond21@googlemail.com](mailto:whammond21@googlemail.com).

**Martin Pinder**



## Don't Just Stand There – Do Something!



We live in turbulent times and are finding our screens filled with appallingly violent scenes. And then some courageous individual acts to stem further escalation of the situation putting their own life at risk.

How would we react?

Two thousand years ago, life was equally hard. It was then that the baby in the manger became a man and began teaching. Jesus drew crowds to himself because he was like no one they had ever encountered before. Jesus had an earthly mother in Mary, but a heavenly father who was Almighty God. He was therefore both human and divine.

One day amongst the crowd, there was a man who was an expert in Jewish Law. He sought to test Jesus, asking “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus discerned his thoughts and asked “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

He answered “Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And love your neighbour as yourself.”

Jesus told him “You have answered correctly. Do this and you shall live.”

But the expert persisted “But who is my neighbour?”

Jesus told him this story. “A man was going down from

Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and left him half dead. It happened that a priest was going down on the same road, and when he saw the bloodstained body, he passed by on the other side of the road (no doubt hurriedly). So too, a Levite, a member of that tribe who could have worked in the temple, also saw the man and he too passed by on the other side.

“But a Samaritan, as he travelled, took pity on the man. He went to him and bandaged his wounds pouring on oil and wine [*used then as an antiseptic*]. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the inn keeper and said, “Look after him and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”

The expert and the others listening were shocked, because the Jews and Samaritans were sworn enemies. Jesus asked the expert, “Who do you think was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert answered, “The man who had mercy on him?” Jesus said “Go and do likewise.” (*This story can be found in Luke’s gospel Chapter 10 Verses 24-35, New International Version*)

Now, we may not encounter someone who has been mugged, but there may well be an incident or a need when we could be called on to act. Jesus was showing the crowd that anyone, be they friend or foe, was their neighbour. Just think, there is so much that is troubling in our world, and if everyone in this land of ours (and others around the globe) did act, it could be the first step towards unity and peace for all mankind.

We live in a lovely village (I have been here for 28 years), and we became especially good neighbours during Covid, when James Croft, then vicar of St Giles, and his wife played their part in organising help for anyone in need. And UTE has been invaluable by providing information as to what goes on here. **Pat Westwell**

## G'Day Cobbers!



Our eagle-eyed proofreader, Hayley Stonehouse, and her husband took the plunge and moved half way across the world to the warmer climes of Adelaide, Australia early in December last year. It certainly gives a whole new take on remote working!

It actually works very well for UTE, as Hayley can be sent



a draft last thing at night, and she delivers her corrections overnight to the editor’s inbox, ready for incorporation first thing the next morning. Hayley says they’re trying not to complain when it’s too hot (it can get up to 40°C), as it’s a nice problem to have! The photos are from central Adelaide and the beach at Brighton, Adelaide.

## Bakewell Library Recommends...



**Ask Again, Yes** by Mary Beth Keane. Gillam, upstate New York: a town of ordinary, big-lawned suburban houses. The Gleasons have recently moved there and soon welcome the Stanhopes as their new neighbours. Lonely Lena Gleason wants a friend but Anne Stanhope – cold, elegant, unstable – wants to be left alone. It's left to their children – Lena's youngest, Kate, and Anne's only child, Peter – to find their way to one another. To form a friendship whose resilience and love will be almost broken by the fault line dividing both families, and by the terrible tragedy that will engulf them all. A tragedy whose true origins only become clear many years later.

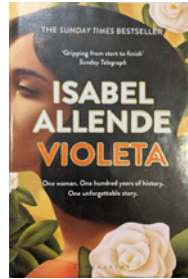
This book tackles family drama, family love and family hardships with empathy and grace, over the course of three generations, with well-drawn characters I came to really care about. It is a thought-provoking and heart-warming book that will stick with me for some time. **Rating 4/5**



**The Couple Next Door** by Shari Lapena. Your neighbour told you that she didn't want your six-month-old daughter at the dinner party. Nothing personal, she just couldn't stand her crying. Your husband said it would be fine. After all, you only live next door. You'll have the baby monitor and you'll take it in turns to go back every half hour. Your daughter was sleeping when you checked on her last. But now, as you race up the stairs in your deathly quiet house, your worst fears are realised. She's gone. You've never had to call the police before. But now they're in your home, and who knows what they'll find

there. What would you be capable of, when pushed past your limit? How well do we ever know those around us?

This book will keep you reading into the early hours – you won't want to put it down, and even if you do, you'll still be thinking about it. From the very first page, you're drawn in. The plot is clever, the pace spot on, and the whole thing beautifully constructed. Compelling, gripping, captivating... simply a very good read. **Rating 5/5**



**Violeta** by Isabel Allende. Violeta comes into the world on a stormy day in 1920, the first daughter in a family of five boisterous sons. From the start, her life is marked by extraordinary events, for the ripples of the Great War are still being felt, even as the Spanish flu arrives on the shores of her South American homeland almost at the moment of her birth. Through her father's prescience, the family will come through that crisis unscathed, only to face a new one as the Great Depression transforms the genteel city life she has known. Her family loses all and is forced to retreat to a wild and beautiful but remote part of the country. There, she will come of age, and her first suitor will come calling. In a letter to someone she loves above all others, Violeta recounts devastating heartbreak and passionate affairs, times of both poverty and wealth, terrible loss and immense joy.

Wow, I forgot how good a writer Isabel Allende is. Travelling through the decades of Violet's amazing life, the book is so well researched I had to check if it was a true story. It is told through letters to her grandson—a structure that reinforces the themes of family and love. **Rating 5/5**

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## February Farming Notes



It's been a rather miserable winter on the whole. I always find that when February is bad for weather, it feels like winter will never end. We have had so much rain that the land deteriorates drastically anywhere that we have livestock on. Feeding areas get quickly waterlogged, and deep mud makes it a rather drab and demoralising environment.

The last month, there seems to have been so much rain with such little sunshine to lift our spirits. Last year, we had a dry spring, which caused a lack of growth in the grass in

spring and summer, which then had a negative knock-on effect for farmers everywhere with feed shortages. It's always a worry when we get stuck in particular weather patterns, such as too much rain now, or another long dry spell when we need some showers for the grass to grow.

There have been a few glimmers of positivity – the birds are singing more cheerfully now, and the days are getting longer. A bit more sun and some dry days would be enjoyable for animals and humans alike! **Joanna Shimwell**

## Longstone Local History Group

Longstone Local History Group met on 17th February, when Ann Hall gave a most interesting talk about the former cheesemaking and cotton industries of Great Longstone. Evidence of the latter activity can still be seen in the form of the three-storey terrace building on the opposite side of Main Street from the White Lion. These houses were formerly connected with the cotton industry at the end of the 18th century. Approximately a hundred years later, there was a cheesemaking factory and associated buildings further up the village towards Moor Road. Neither of these industries

was in production for more than about 30 years.

After Ann's talk, Liz McDonald related a story about her father, who joined the army in 1932 and was involved in the D-Day landings in 1944.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm, when Peter Donaldson will give a presentation describing the somewhat protracted birth, century of life, and much regretted death of the Midland Railway line that linked Derby with Manchester through the Peak District.

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## Dear All,

As a lifelong fan of the iconic science fiction series Startrek, it has always amused me that the grammar police came out in force over the split infinitive in the Starship Enterprise's mission statement 'to boldly go'.

Apparently, for some, it marred Star Trek forever. It's interesting, isn't it, the things that can irk and provoke us: Is it Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday? Remembrance Sunday or Poppy Day? The Isles of Scilly or the Scilly Isles? Let's not get started on the subject of flags on lampposts, who we vote for, whether we were right to choose Brexit, or whether it's a good thing to be woke (believe me, it really is!).

People seem to argue all the time and, particularly on social media, they readily fall into arguments about the most trivial things. The gloves quickly come off when someone's opinion or narrative is challenged – discussions soon become personal and spats too often descend into real unpleasantness. Sadly, relationships can be fractured or broken because people hold different views. And of course, not everything is trivial, some things really matter: e.g standards in public life, the right to justice, the protection of the vulnerable, the care of our fragile planet - some things really do matter.

The church is not immune from

heated discussions and relational fracture as it faces a turbulent period, characterised by deep divisions over sexual ethics, a crisis of confidence in safeguarding, and intense scrutiny of its leadership and institutional role.

People seldom agree on everything – to be human is to learn to live with disagreement. The challenge is to disagree well, to listen to those with whom we disagree; to love those who think differently and hold different opinions to us.

None of this is to devalue the importance of truth. We follow Jesus who proclaimed, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). It's worth noting that being right is not one of the fruits of the Spirit. Jesus is right and true, but the fruits of the Spirit listed by St Paul as the characteristics of Jesus' followers are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

How can we live so that we manifest these attributes in our pursuit of truth and in our conversations and interactions with others? As I write this, we are just about to enter the season of Lent, which for Christians, is a time of prayer and self examination, so it's a perfect time to ask ourselves the question, 'How can we draw closer to Jesus so that we mirror his love more graciously?'

In some translations, one of the fruits of the Spirit, 'patience', is translated as 'forbearance'. There is a subtle difference. Patience implies a more passive response. We wait in the face of boredom; and calmly endure difficult circumstances. Forbearance seems more active, describing restraint or tolerance, particularly choosing not to react to provocations, offences, or people's flaws. As a fruit of the Spirit, it connects together patience and self-control. Someone with forbearance suffers fools gladly, because, frankly, why let someone else's foolishness interfere or impede one's gladness? We try to be more patient with others because we are encouraged to exercise forbearance. As Jesus' followers, we endeavour to listen more than we speak, we seek to learn, to understand the viewpoints of others, we build friendships with those who think differently to us. In doing these things, we are sharing the Father's love; who loves us not because we are right but because we are His children. This month, during Lent, let's boldly but gently go to practice patience and exercise forbearance, and may the truth of God's love for us grow in our hearts.

**David Beale, Reader at St Giles**

### St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond  
07935 873930  
cubanheel26@btinternet.com

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### 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 March

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

**+L-Longstone**

### 1<sup>st</sup> March – Lent 2

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

### 8<sup>th</sup> March – Lent 3

9.30am Sung Eucharist (Ashford) (+L)

### 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday

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

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Passion Sunday

10.30am Eucharist (Rowsley) (+L)

### 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

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

## March in the Garden

**Lawns:** Aerate lawn with a wire rake. Reseed worn areas and repair lawn edges that have crumbled, apply spring fertiliser. Apply selective weed and moss killers when grass is growing strongly. Cut grass when two and a half to three inches high. Control worms.  
**Roses:** Prune hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures, repeat-flowering climbers and shrub roses. Complete any delayed planting.

**Herbaceous plants:** If weather is dry, spread fertiliser on winter-dug ground and rake in. Plant any newly purchased plants. Check labels before they are hidden by new growth.

**Dahlias:** Prepare ground by digging and dressing with bone meal, select a place in full sun. Sow dahlia seeds under glass and start old tubers into growth to produce cuttings.

**Gladioli:** Plant corms in rows for exhibition purposes, in colonies for decorating mixed borders, plant in succession for continuous supply of blooms; plant corms 2 inches deep.

**Chrysanthemums:** Prepare ground for planting, adding manure. Leave ground roughly dug until April or early May.

**Sweet peas:** Plant out autumn-sown seedlings in double rows where grown in the cordon system.

**Trees and shrubs:** Plant deciduous trees and shrubs until the end of the month. Plant evergreens at the end of the month.

**Fruit:** Complete planting of any new trees or bushes. Complete pruning. Feed cultivars in cultivated ground. Train peaches and nectarines and pollinate artificially if insects are scarce. Spray stone fruits. Plant raspberries and strawberries. Train in new shoots of blackberries and loganberries.

**Vegetables:** Sow seeds of salad onions and radishes, and main crop Brussels sprouts late in the month. Sow seeds of late summer cabbages and round seeded peas. Plant asparagus and Jerusalem artichokes. Complete shallot planting.

**General tasks:** Complete all digging, kill weeds on paths and drives, keep clean with a total weed killer. Check all ties securing plants to stakes.



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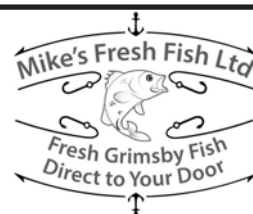


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## Liz Hewitt's Courgette, Mint and Lemon Soup

Courgettes (zucchini in North America), along with tomatoes, peppers and potatoes, have transformed European cuisine since their introduction from the Americas. They are incredibly versatile, which is just as well, since once they get going, they grow like Topsy. Like cucumbers, they are in fact members of the squash family (*courgette* is French and *zucchini* Italian for 'small squash'). You can

even grow 'round' courgettes, which are delicious stuffed.

In soups, they lend body and a slightly sweet flavour, as in the cucumber and courgette soup recipe featured in UTE's October 2024 edition. Winter is the time for warm and nourishing soups, and the lemon and mint in this recipe add a herbal sharpness, redolent of the Mediterranean, as a signpost to the summer to come.

Finely chop the onion and fry in the oil until transparent in a large casserole dish. Chop the courgettes into 2cm slices, and add to the onions with the stock cubes and water. Bring to the boil, and simmer for about thirty minutes until the courgettes are soft.

Strip the mint leaves off their stalks and add to the mixture with the zest and juice of the lemon. Season with salt and white pepper. Liquidise in pulses to desired consistency - it's best left with small grains of courgette, to give it a bit of bite, rather than continuing until completely smooth (you can get a rough idea of how



fine it should be from the photo above).

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## What's On

**Mondays** - Lent Course based on *West Side Story*, GL Village Hall 4-5pm (page 15)  
**Tuesdays** - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm  
**Wednesdays** - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 19)  
**3rd March** - Warmer Homes Meeting, Friends Meeting House Bakewell 2pm (page 5)  
**4th March** - WI Chris Unsworth talk, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 12)  
**5th March** - LEAP Ceramics Workshop, GL Village Hall 7-9pm (page 13) £15  
**7th March** - Peak Music Concert, Cavendish Hall Edensor 7.30pm (page 4) £30  
**9th March** - Little Longstone Parish Meeting, LL Chapel 7pm (page 13)  
**11th March** - LEAP Sewing Workshop, GL Village Hall 10am-4pm (page 13) £10  
**11th March** - GL Parish Council meeting, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 15)  
**14th March** - LEAP Weaving Workshop, GL Village Hall 1-4pm (page 13) £5  
**17th March** - LL History Group Talk *Midland Railway*, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 20)  
**19th-22nd March** - Aladdin, Tilly Studios, GL Business Park, 7pm (page 7) £12-£16  
**19th March** - LASRA Open Meeting, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 16)  
**25th March** - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 13)  
**26th March** - Film Club *The Choral*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 13) £5  
**28th March** - Repair Café, Bakewell Methodist Church Hall, 10am-12 (page 11)

### Bakewell Medical Centre

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#### Normal Surgery Opening Times:

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#### Whitworth Hospital Opening Times:

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**For medical advice when the surgery is closed, phone 111**

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### 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:

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Please include your name and contact details. Copy deadline for small notices or changes in the next issue is **10am** on:

**Wednesday 18th March**

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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Join us on the first Friday of every month for a fun Quiz Night with quiz host Mark Wright. Free drinks for the quiz winners plus a bonus cash prize up for grabs. Food served until 9pm, book a table for this fun-filled night!

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

The Crispin Great Longstone 01629 640237

**The Crispin Inn**

**Traditional Family Owned  
Country Inn**

Quality Home Cooked Food  
(Local produce & suppliers)

Takeaway available

Award winning Cask Ales

Extensive Wine List

Two dining rooms available for  
parties & business meetings

Beer garden & outdoor seating

Children, dogs & muddy boots welcome

5 star hygiene rating

Supporting the  
community  
since 2005

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