
UNDER THE EDGE

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

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The First Sunset of the Year over Little Longstone



Thanks to Ali Plowright for this beautiful photo taken in March with the roadside daffodils in full bloom

May Gardening Notes

Hopefully, May will provide some warmer sunny days, when we can sit outside and enjoy the warmth of the sun. April gave us a small taster for a couple of days, giving us a surge of growth and the beautiful splash of green leaves on the trees. Some overwintering plants will now come out of the greenhouse, to make room for the tomatoes that I will grow in containers. I will keep an eye out for any late frost, and protect the plants I have put out with fleece. The tomatoes seem to grow really quickly, but once they have exhausted the goodness in the compost, I will have to start to give them regular liquid feeds towards the end of the month. Sweetcorn is one of my favourite crops, and these have had the protection of the greenhouse. They will go in the ground towards the end of the month.

The tulips have performed again (*see photo*) and as they fade away, I will plant up containers for the summer display with the likes of petunias, fuchsias, lobelia, sun flowers, marigolds and bidens. It's a busy time in the allotment with sowing or planting of beans, beetroot, peas, potatoes, onions, cabbage, kale, leeks, brussels, and broad beans. It's also nice to see a couple of new allotment holders having a go.

For me, it is a busy time with cacti and succulents, potting on plants that have become rootbound, splitting plants up and taking lots of cuttings. I shall also plant a large container with succulents that can be displayed outdoors during the summer.

Andy Hanna



Neighbourhood Plan – Climate and Energy Working Group Update

The Climate and Energy Working Group is one of five teams contributing to the Longstone Area Plans, which will comprise both a Neighbourhood Plan (focused on planning decisions we can influence) and a broader Village Plan to help shape the future of our community. Both plans will be grounded in your views, and the recent neighbourhood plan survey provided a significant first window into those.

What you told us:

- **Overall sentiment:** Most survey respondents are broadly supportive of action on energy and climate, though many expressed reservations about the practicalities, costs, and visual impact of specific measures.
- **Renewable energy:** There was general support for solar panels, particularly on rooftops and the Village Hall, and mixed feelings about small wind turbines. A recurring concern was aesthetics and the need for sympathetic design to preserve the character of our villages – a balance that clearly matters deeply to residents.
- **Home insulation and energy efficiency:** Many residents acknowledge the value of improving home energy efficiency but note that older stone properties present particular challenges. Several respondents mentioned a fear of being misled by disreputable tradespeople, and there is clear appetite for better information and guidance on what is permissible within the conservation area.
- **Community energy projects:** There is strong interest in community-led initiatives (shared solar, battery storage, or wind projects) as a way to make renewables more affordable and accessible. Upfront costs are seen as a major barrier for individuals, and collective schemes are seen as a potential way to overcome this.
- **Planning and Peak Park:** A recurring frustration is

the perception that planning rules can be too restrictive, and residents would welcome clearer, simpler guidance.

- **EV charging:** Multiple respondents highlighted the complete absence of electric vehicle charging points in Great Longstone and the surrounding villages as a problem for both residents and visitors.

In response to your feedback, the Working Group is concentrating on three areas:

- **Knowledge Hub:** Collating information, contacts, and contractor recommendations to help residents make informed decisions about home energy improvements and renewable installations. We are currently exploring viable models for this.
- **Neighbourhood Plan policies:** Identifying planning policies that support renewable energy adoption in a way that is sensitive to the character and heritage of our villages. Our next challenge is to draft policy statements that reflect your views and address the tension between embracing renewable energy and preserving the distinctive character of our stone villages.
- **Community energy project:** Exploring the feasibility of longer-term, community-led renewable energy initiatives including with the Headteacher and Governors to address the high energy consumption of the school. We have submitted expressions of interest with GB Energy to exploring funding and are seeking meetings with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to explore local grid capacity and constraints.

Our group now has nine members, with a wide range of knowledge and experience. We will be meeting regularly over the year, so anyone wishing to contribute is warmly encouraged to get in touch at villageplan@greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk.

Jonathan Knight

Scarecrow Parade is Back!

As part of Village Week, we're thrilled to relaunch the much-loved Scarecrow Parade – a fun competition with scarecrows displayed all the way from Monsal Head through Little and Great Longstone! The scarecrows will be in place throughout Village Week and judged by LASRA.

Got a creative streak? Why not make your very own scarecrow and join in the fun? If you'd like a helping hand,

come along to the Scarecrow Face Making Mania Workshop with Tweed Queen at The Canteen Café, Monsal Head on 27th May at 9am. It'll kick-start the creation of your very own scarecrow, and you can compare your ideas and designs with others too.

Let's fill the village with creativity, colour, and plenty of friendly faces!

Ali Plowright



Transport Improvements on the Horizon

We start with some very good news. The Department for Transport is allocating £6 million to fund the 'Switzerland in the Peak District' project mentioned in last month's UTE. Thank you to everybody, including Great Longstone Parish Council, who wrote to the Mayor's team in support of the proposal. Although the project is chiefly aimed at giving visitors to the Hope Valley a viable alternative to using a car, the increased frequency and extended times of coverage of bus services will help residents throughout the Hope Valley and beyond. This includes residents of the Longstones, as our own bus service, the 173 from Bakewell to Castleton, will run hourly from early in the morning to late at night. The East Midlands Mayor's team will be responsible for delivering the project, and members of the transport group in Hope Valley Climate Action, who developed the proposal, will keep a close eye on progress.

All our local politicians, at all levels (our MP, the East Midlands Mayor, County and District councillors) are aware of the problems posed by the ever increasing numbers of cars in the Peak District National Park. We're seeing more and more cars parked in Little Longstone on the section of road between the chapel and the top of the hill down into the village. That used to be full only on bank holidays, but now it seems to be every sunny weekend. A better bus service will help, but will it be enough to persuade people to leave their cars at home? Many cities, faced with the same

problem, are turning to congestion charges. Phil Mulligan, Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park Authority, has floated the idea of a levying a small charge to enter the Peak District (10p per person for 13 million people would add up to quite a lot), while Mayor Claire is considering a tourist tax on overnight stays. However, neither idea acts as a disincentive to visiting the Peak District in a car, which is the problem that needs tackling.

As I write this, Bakewell is facing another weekend of traffic chaos, due to the Food and Drink Festival. Bakewell is reasonably well served by buses during the day, but when the traffic stops moving, so do the buses. If only we had a railway like the Hope Valley... Of course we did once, until Barbara Castle did her worst. Our MP John Whitby is attempting to repair the damage, and spoke in a recent Parliamentary debate on rail connections to rural towns in which he highlighted Bakewell's lack of rail connections, which leaves people reliant on cars. John Whitby is supporting the Peaks and Dales Line Feasibility Study, which has just been submitted to the Department for Transport (and can be viewed at peaksanddalesline.co.uk). It will cost more than £6 million, and take an awfully long time, but one day we may be able to rival the Hope Valley in terms of rail and bus connectivity. And until then, we'll soon be able to hop on the 173 and be sure of catching a connection to Sheffield or Manchester at Hope Station.

Georgina Blair

New Local Occupational Therapist and Care Provider

Having worked for Ashgate Hospice for 11 years as a Specialist Palliative Care Occupational Therapist (OT), I have decided to start up as an independent OT and Care Provider in the Derbyshire Dales and surrounding areas. I have a combined 30 years' experience in both fields, having had my own Home Care Business in North Yorkshire prior to going to university as a mature student to study Occupational Therapy. I have worked in several disciplines including stroke rehabilitation, elective and trauma orthopaedics, elderly medicine, major adaptations, Care Home discharges back home and community rehabilitation.

I feel I now have the perfect opportunity to combine both areas of expertise to provide compassionate care and/or therapeutic support to anyone who may be struggling at home, for as long as is needed. I'm based four miles from Bakewell, and can cover rural villages, where often personalised homecare provision can be very hard to find.

I have a store of basic aids and equipment that clients could loan or try out before they consider purchasing. I also have links with other experienced dedicated professionals who

specialise in stairlift provision, specialist chairs, or more major adaptations such as installing a shower, ramps, rails and so on.

If you feel I can help you or a loved one, please contact me for an informal chat on **07949 191382** or by email at **dawn.jepson68@yahoo.com**. **Dawn Jepson**



SUMMER 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.

Village Week Events will be advertised separately.

DATE	EVENT INFORMATION	Charge
Wed 13 th May 10 am – 4 pm	Applique Sewing with Marge	£10 Email to book
Thur 21 st May Thur 18 th June 7pm – 8 pm	Art Talks with Richard Foulkes from Manchester Art Gallery Details to follow	£5 donation to MAG
Sat 6 th June 10 am – 12 pm	Paper Marbling This workshop will be an introduction to the art of marbling onto paper and will look at different techniques to create unique patterns.	£10 Email to book
Sat 20 th June 10 am – 12 pm	Well-being Café Join us for a morning of rest and relaxation. There will be demonstrations and stalls as well as tea and cake!	Free
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 30 th April 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 Thur 28 th May 7.30 pm	The Life of Chuck A life-affirming, genre-bending story about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz based on a story by Stephen King.	£5 On the door
Thur 25 th Jun 7.30 pm	Song Sung Blue Based on a true story, two down on their luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never to late to follow your dreams.	£5 On the door
27 th May, 24 th Jun, 29 th July	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.	



A Return to Skin That Feels at Ease



Hi! I'm Martha, Founder of NatureGlow Skincare. I created NatureGlow Skincare from a very personal place – years of living with sensitive, reactive skin, and trying product after product that either did nothing or made things worse. At a certain point, I stopped looking for stronger solutions and started asking a different question: what does the skin actually need?

That question led me to the skin barrier – the outer layer responsible for protecting, retaining moisture, and keeping skin balanced. When it's disrupted, skin becomes dry, reactive, and unpredictable. When it's supported, everything begins to settle. NatureGlow was built around that understanding.

NatureGlow is a small-batch skincare brand based in Great Longstone. Each product is handcrafted using carefully selected botanical ingredients chosen to calm, protect, and restore the skin. The range includes moisturising creams, a gentle cream cleanser, a nutrient-rich facial oil, a barrier-supporting balm, and a nourishing body butter.

All products are vegan and cruelty-free. For those with ultra-sensitive or reactive skin, I created the Sensitive Skin Collection – including the Lumen Cream Cleanser, Essential Repair Cream, and Barrier Repair Rescue Balm – completely fragrance-free

and formulated with delicate skin in mind. The wider range uses carefully balanced essential oil blends and is suitable for most skin types.

Since launching at local markets earlier this year, the response has been incredibly moving – especially from people who have struggled for years to find something their skin can trust. One of the most unexpected and rewarding parts has been seeing how many men are trying skincare for the first time and finding it approachable.

This is what customers are saying: *(independently verified by UTE)*

"After years of using expensive face creams I have recently changed to NatureGlow Skincare and it's lovely. The face cream is gentle on your skin, not greasy, and leaves a lovely glow if used under your foundation. Smells good too." Patricia, Hassop

"Having never used skincare products before as a 41-year-old man, I wasn't sure what to expect when I was given this as a gift. I love it — I try to use it after a shower and it leaves my face feeling and smelling lovely. I'm sure it's doing my skin the world of good too!" Steven, Great Longstone

"I have been using the NatureGlow Skincare Revive & Restore Cream morning and night. The cream smells fabulous and is very silky. My face feels very soft and smooth, and I'm sure that some of my fine lines are disappearing. My skin is more radiant and glowing. I would certainly recommend it to anyone." Wendy, Great Longstone

"I have dry, sensitive, and sun-damaged skin and the NatureGlow Sensitive Skin trio (Lumen Cream Cleanser, Essential Repair Cream and Barrier Repair Rescue Balm) has given my skin nourishment and protection." Frank, Great Longstone

I believe skincare doesn't need to be complicated to be effective. A simple routine – cleanse, moisturise, protect – can make a meaningful difference when the products are right. The aim has always been the same: skin that feels calm, balanced, and well cared for – whatever your skin type, and wherever you're starting from.

Calm. Restore. Renew. Because when your skin feels right, everything else follows.

For more information, go to our Facebook or Instagram pages, visit our website natureglowskincare.com or contact me on **07478 166858** or hello@natureglowskincare.com.
Martha Barbieri



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hello@natureglowskincare.com
 **07478 166858** 

Landscape Tree Grants

The Peak District Foundation has launched a great new project to plant 'Landscape Trees'. This is primarily for planting individual trees in field boundaries and in-field on agricultural land (**not** private land or gardens), but can be used in public spaces where appropriate. It is mainly a response to the Ash Dieback experienced across the National Park. We can also provide funding for small woodland copses, usually up to 25 trees, and for individual tree guards and shelters.

Grants are based on a standard rate for tree guards, £1.72 a tree, for a post and rail parkland guard £121.62, and for a weld mesh or cactus guard £74.74. If a contractor is used, we can pay for the material costs at 100% of the contractor's costs, provided it is in line with what we are currently benchmarking.

Grants will be given on a first come, first served basis for planting in the next winter season. I'm happy to have a chat or a make site visit to discuss it further – please contact me on **01629 816395** or ben.lambert@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

Ben Lambert

White Lion Update

Sadly, Inglenook Inns could not agree mutual terms for Jamie to stay on at the White Lion (see last month's UTE), so it is now being managed on a temporary weekly basis, while they continue to look for a tenant to take up the lease with Robinsons.

At the time of going to press, the landlord of a pub in Chapel-en-le-Frifh was holding the fort while his wife manned their own pub.

Opening hours remain unchanged, and food will still be available from Thursday to Sunday.



Last month, Mandy Coates from Bakewell Museum gave an interesting talk of how the Museum came to be. It was built in Henry VII's time for the collection of tithes, and there were many owners – Ralph Gill, Richard Arkwright and the Devonshires, with many extensions being added during this time.

In the late 1940s, the house was going to be knocked down, but by chance Bakewell and District Historical Society saved it and carried out much work on it. It was opened as the Museum in 1954, and this year's exhibition is *Home Sweet Home – The Dolls House*. The museum is well worth a visit – it's open from 25th March to 5th November, all week 11am-4pm.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Refreshments and more will be provided by the committee. I will be providing the Mystery Parcel. Look forward to seeing you there! **Zoe McGregor**



Fundraising Heroes of the Future!



*Fundraising heroes – Ewan completing his 26 laps of the Rec – Rosie training for her sponsored bike ride – Rowan with his art gallery first to shout **Bingo!***



As you will know from our last update in March, the children have been working incredibly hard to raise money for Friends of Longstone School's 2026 challenge. Each pupil was set the challenge of raising £20.26 by April 2026, with a whole-school goal of £2026. Thanks to an amazing range of efforts – including cake sales, pop-up shops, sponsored walks, swims, bike rides, runs, silences and more, we are absolutely thrilled to share that the children have not only met but exceeded our school target!

We'd also like to say a huge thank you to High Peak Comps who kindly supported us by providing an Easter Egg for every child for their fantastic fundraising efforts. We couldn't be prouder of our school community. Their creativity, determination and support have been truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!



Easter Bingo

It only seemed right, as we finished for the Easter break, to hold our very first family Easter bingo event! Eyes down... and the race was on to win that line or full house and be the

A truly lovely, fun family affair – full of laughter, excitement and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made it such a special way to start the Easter holidays.

Save The Date

The FOLS Summer Fair and Colour Run will take place on Saturday 11th July at Longstone C of E Primary School.

Community Donation Request

FOLS are on the hunt for any old pots or pans you no longer need, to help us create a fun 'music wall' for the children of Owls class.

If you have anything tucked away in your cupboards that you don't use anymore, we would be so grateful for your donation. Please drop Louise a message on **07966 863941** to arrange collection or drop-off.

Team FOLS



Lottie, Sophia, Charlie and Barnaby selling homemade cakes

End of an era at GL Motors



Despite a few customers not believing Paul's age (we put it down to his good head of hair), he has finally stepped back and hung up his spanners! Since 1995, Paul's garage has been a big part of Top Yard, and a big asset to the village. GL Motors has earned its reputation over 31 years as a reliable, trustworthy, experienced garage and has gained many loyal customers over that time.

Paul's mechanical background started at the age of 17, as an apprentice at George Kenning's in Buxton, where he earned his City and Guilds qualification. He then joined local Mike Hirst at Longstone Garage when he was 22, before working at Mount Pleasant Garage in Grindleford for three years with his good friend at the time, Kevin Pedley. Later, he worked with heavy machinery and equipment for Laporte Industries, based at Cavendish Mill on Longstone Moor, but shift work didn't suit him, so he moved to Bakewell where he did MOT testing and restoring of classic cars for local customers, under the watchful eye of Dennis Brocklehurst.

Seven years later, a great opportunity came to work once

again in Buxton, this time at Links, a VW/Audi garage. Here he met many of his mechanic friends, including Steve Ambrey, a name and face you will have seen at the garage working for Paul over the last few years. It's Steve, alongside employee Oli Turner, to whom Paul is handing over the GL Motors baton, so we know the business is in very safe hands.

Paul built the garage up from scratch, dedicating all his time and skills to the business. He has seen many apprentices come and go, and worked with some great mechanics, including Don Smith, who originally worked for Mike Hirst all those years ago!

As mentioned above, he has looked after many customers, used great suppliers and worked alongside some great local businesses up at the yard, and as part of this he wanted to say a huge thank you for all the custom, support, friendship and loyalty over the last 31 years. Also, a special thank you to wife Fiona, for all her hard work behind the scenes, from all the bookkeeping to keeping him sane whilst building the business.

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What will he do with all of his spare time, you ask? At the time of writing, and on his first day of retirement, he is clearing out his home garage!

Fiona has a list of jobs at the ready, there will be plenty of trips in the MG, and he will be kept busy with four grandchildren, with another two joining the family later this year. So he will have plenty to do!

Good luck to Steve. I'm sure Dad will be joining you for a cuppa sooner than you think!

Jen Dowding

Churchyard Wildlife Group Update



The Churchyard Wildlife Group of volunteers have been super busy this spring. We were blessed with lovely early spring weather to help Tom and Dan Cox plant some new hedges in the parkland field, and one nearer to the trail. We planted native species – mainly hawthorn with some blackthorn, field maple, dog rose, privet, dogwood and hazel. We had three working parties with about 14 people helping, which meant progress was speedy. Dan re-fuelled us with bacon butties, which were much appreciated! It has been great to have so many people involved from the village (and Little Longstone), and to have had the opportunity to contribute to the fantastic conservation works that Tom and Dan are carrying out on the farm.

Everyone commented on how much they had enjoyed being involved. The restoration work that Tom and Dan are doing in the parkland field, which is part of the Thornbridge Grade II listed parkland, is to be applauded. Not only hedge planting but also planting replacement parkland trees and protecting the old trees with stand-off fencing. And it won't be long until the hay meadow is in flower.

The volunteers have also been busy in the churchyard. We planted native bluebells in the area under the lime trees to the left of the church that we seeded last year with native grasses and wildflowers. Other plants donated by villagers have also been planted – primroses, foxgloves, teasels,

cuckoo flowers. We also started clearing the next section under the lime trees to be seeded with native grasses and wildflowers.

The areas done last year will be coming into flower very soon – pop along and have a look if you are walking through the churchyard!

None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of the volunteers – thank you very much, everyone! Lots more to come this year – we'll keep you posted!

Sara Barrett



Little Longstone Biodiversity Group



Our very small group has been busy weeding the grass verge from the Chapel to just beyond the street light on Butts Road. It's been a difficult job to remove the dandelions, docks, ground elder and couch grass, but necessary for reseeded to be successful. In some places, there is still some of the grasses, but most of the other weeds have been taken out. We discovered pockets of bluebells that had been overgrown by weeds and a patch of wild garlic too.

Georgina Blair, Eileen Adamson and I have now sown wildflower meadow seeds onto the verge, and this will now be regularly watered to hopefully ensure germination. We have also planted small plants of pink campion, ox eye daisies, violets, field scabious, fox and cubs and mallow.

Further down at the side of the pinfold, we have moved the Spanish bluebells to either side of the gate, and all the area to the left has been cleared of weeds, and wild garlic planted. This will then be scattered with seeds for shady areas at a later date. We hope you all like the new look, and look forward to the flowers appearing as the spring progresses into summer and attracts pollinators and wildlife.

Geof Brooke kindly netted the area for us, and Georgina made our colourful 'please keep off' signs.

If anyone else would like to be involved please do get in touch as we still have a large piece to clear. Call me on **07801 315108**, or Eileen on **07977 992772**.

Ali Plowright



Another Repair Café Success!



Readers may remember the tale of my wife's 50-year-old toaster, rescued from the scrap heap by Tideswell Repair Café's Mike Gray (*UTE March 2025*). A few weeks ago, in the middle of jet-washing a large expanse of paving, our Karcher washer suddenly let out a few 'Prpp!' noises (the sort they do if there's a bit of air or a kink in the hosepipe) before giving up the ghost completely. As there was a Repair Café that weekend in Bakewell's Methodist

Church Hall, it seemed a good idea to see if Mike could work his magic again, as the nearest Karcher repair centre was an hour's drive away in Stoke-on-Trent. And indeed he did! After a bit of disassembling, it transpired that the on/off switch was working fine, but the external knob connecting to it was clogged with dirt. So, apart from cleaning up a bit of water that had sprayed on Mike's clothes and the floor (for which the Rotary Club ladies hastily provided a yellow hazard sign), it was back to work, full steam ahead! The next Repair Café in Tideswell is on 16th May from 10am-1pm, and Bakewell on 30th May from 10am-12. **Adam Rae-Smith**

Tread Softly – Listening and Experiencing Nature’s Wonders



We felt huge joy and humility on the Easter Sunday sunrise walk. It was totally glorious. Thank you to all, and a huge and especial thank you to Heather and Will for willingly getting up on their day off to take on the expert cooking, serving and washing up of the delicious post-walk bacon butties and hot drinks. Thank you too to their able helpers, Anne McTaggart, Su Woollen and Joyce Glencross.

And a special, heartfelt thank you to Stuart and Leanne Fairfax, who so kindly welcomed us into their lambing shed at 7am, which was a humbling glance at the heavy load for farmers and their total dedication to their work. Thank you to Wendy Hanna for her lovely reflective prayer on the theme of Love, as the sun bathed our community below, and to Karen Mort for donating the hot cross buns. Thank you to all who joined the walk and/or the breakfast, including our bellringers, and also to those who thought about coming, and for everyone who supported the venture in so many ways. There was indeed a glorious sunrise enjoyed by all from the bottom to the top, from the moonlight to the sunlight. Thanks be to God that we had the opportunity to take part.

Who would have believed that so many beautiful tiny singing creatures would be sitting in the branches above our

heads on the trail on 15th April. We marvelled at their unique voices singing in unison. The free *Merlin* app identified siskin, greenfinch, chiff chaff, gold crest, blackbird and blue tit! Such singing feathered variety in our neighbourhood.

We would have missed the details, if we hadn't had the benefit of the birdsong app. But we also stopped, waited and listened, taking notice, looking a little closer at the world around us and each other, a refreshingly simple and enjoyable act. Maybe it's a bit like faith. Coming to know more about God rarely happens all at once, with a clear picture of our yearnings. Maybe faith grows if we take time to attend to even the faintest awareness of a presence and to engage with a beauty and good outside ourselves, but that we might notice in the world and in the faces, generosity and kindnesses of others. Maybe God is working in and around us all the time?

Alison Waltho



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A Bark-tastic Day Out at Thornbridge Estate!



To celebrate their Bronze Award win at the Visit Peak District, Derbyshire and Derby Tourism Awards back in March, Thornbridge Estate hosted their first ever *Jai Paw Dog Day*, a celebration of our canine best friends!

The event was a hit, with the Estate welcoming over 300 visitors to the to the event. Local dog-friendly businesses showcased their offerings, and naturally, there was plenty of Thornbridge Brewery's award-winning Jaipur on tap.

The show ring was the star attraction, where dogs and their owners could participate in a variety of competitions. *Best Biscuit Catcher* proved to be the most popular event, followed closely by the ever controversial *Dog the Judge Would Most Like to Take Home*. The winner of this event is pictured with Great Longstone's own Andy Gray, who MC'd the event, entertaining the crowd throughout the day. There was even a celebrity judge in attendance, Antiques

Roadshow's very own Will Farmer, who cast his vote in the Golden Oldie round of the show ring.

It's safe to say there's plenty of excitement for the event to return next year!

Molly Pick

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER

2026 Flower Festival and Well Dressing Details

Contact for more information:
Ian Pykett • 07985 042 392 • i.pykett@btinternet.com

Ashford-in-the-Water's **Well Dressings** and **Flower Festival** run concurrently from **Saturday May 30 - Sunday June 7 2026**.

- **Six wells** to be dressed.
- **Flower Festival** at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, 10.30 am - 7.00 pm daily. The theme is "For All The Saints..."
- **Puddling** of Clay into Well Dressing Boards: Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Friday May 22, approx. 5.30 pm.
- **Petalling** of Well Dressing Boards at the War Memorial Institute, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QB, Saturday May 23 - Friday May 29. *Visitors welcome!*
- **Well Dressings in place for viewing around the village:** Saturday May 30 - Sunday June 7. **Runs concurrently with Flower Festival in Holy Trinity Church.**
- **Sheepwash Demonstration** at Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Saturday May 30, approx. 3.00 pm.
- **Duck Race** at Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QF, Saturday May 30, approx. 3.30 pm.
- **Well Blessing Service and Sermon at the Old Preaching Cross** by Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby Cathedral: Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday May 31, 3.00 pm
- **Village Parade and Blessing of the Wells with Youlgreave Silver Band.** Starts at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday May 31, 3.30 pm.
- **Village Day with Matlock Band** on Hall Orchard, Court Lane, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Saturday June 6, 2.00 pm.
- **Closing Service of Thanksgiving** at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, DE45 1QG, Sunday June 7, 5.30 pm.



Garden Container Competition!

As part of Village Week — Sat 11th to Sun 19th July

There will be a hanging basket/garden container competition with prizes!

For details: email4leap@gmail.com

QR Entry Form



Thornhill House needs your help!

As many readers will know, in the next two years, the much-loved Thornhill House in Great Longstone is planning on relocating from its current site to The Grange. This will see the bed numbers increased from 19 to 26, with a range of other new facilities also developed. As we plan for this move, and raise the necessary funds required to make the vision a reality, we're continually seeking input from the local community. We would be incredibly grateful if you would

complete the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/LBQN23Z. The survey findings will provide vital evidence for us to support our applications to grant-making trusts and foundations.

If you have any questions about the future plans for Thornhill House, please email me at amy.stevens@giftedphilanthropy.com, and I will be able to deal with your query. Thank you for your support. **Amy Stevens**

The Grange – A New Home for the Residents and Staff of Thornhill House



Many of you will remember the visionary and energetic work of Molly Thornhill in the 1980s and 1990s to fulfil her vision of Longstone and the surrounding area having its own care home so local people did not have to leave their, often lifetime, home and friends when they needed more care. She had witnessed the sadness leading to the death of a good friend, Marjorie Birch, who had had to make this devastating decision. Molly also had had to travel to visit her husband in Sheffield when he needed care, so she dedicated Thornhill House to his memory. I, as one of many, have supported the home over the years in different ways and think that Molly and John Thornhill should continue to be remembered in the trustees' new venture at The Grange off Station Road.

The current home was built to standard care needs of the time, but now the trustees are finding that to meet current care needs, the residents, relatives and staff need more

space. Thornhill House is well-loved and much appreciated by the community so, over the last few months, Lucy Wright, Molly's daughter and chair of the trustees, has been giving updates in UTE on the progress of their work in acquiring a new home in the village, which could be developed to meet the wider care requirements and also to benefit the relatives, staff and the community.

Last year, the trustees held a consultation at the Village Hall on the proposals for a new home and those who attended gave positive suggestions and supported the trustees' plans. I believe the Thornhill House trustees will continue to welcome your ideas and especially your support for this venture. I have already made my suggestions for a new updated care home in the village so maybe through UTE your suggestions and particularly your support could be voiced.

Joy Thrower

To All Rec Users – Please Treat the Equipment with Respect!

As a community, we have all contributed in time or money to bring the Rec into more use, through the improvement of facilities and the provision of equipment. I would like everyone to treat the space and equipment as well as they possibly can. Recently, we have restrung the tennis net – I believe it was simply taken down to make more space, but unfortunately, this then required work on our behalf to put it back into a useable state.

We are seeing much more use of the tennis court, which is great. The flipside is that some equipment is being misused, particularly the netballs. They are being used as footballs, which ruins them for netball, and are being left out on the court. The shed they are kept in might need some work to make it more useable, but again, things have just been

slung back in. These are relatively minor things, but items become unusable for their intended use, and things start to go missing. I know there is no malice involved – it just needs a little more care, so that we can use the money you have contributed to other uses than replacing the equipment.

These notes are not the nice ones to write – I much prefer the excitement of the growth of a user group, such as pickleball or the newly forming tennis club. We have held two meetings about ideas to take things forward and this will be an ongoing process. Please treat what we have put in place with care, to help the continual improvement of our facilities.

With thanks,

Mike Meurer, LASRA Chair info@lasra.uk

Thank You to All Our Swift Champions



Thank you to all the Swift Champions in Little and Great Longstone who have installed *Swift Boxes* on their homes over the past two years. The boxes provide essential new artificial nesting sites for these critically endangered birds that choose to breed in our local area.

There are now an incredible 48 new nesting sites across the two villages! Why does that matter? Swift numbers have declined by approximately 65% since 1995 and they desperately need our help.

In more modern homes and buildings, there are no nooks or spaces for the birds to use as natural nest sites. The loss of nesting sites, a steep reduction in the number of insects for the birds to feed on and climate change are thought to be the three main reasons why their numbers are declining so dramatically.

The first swifts to arrive back (from first week in May)

should be the ones that are sexually mature, and they will usually head straight for a natural nest site or the *Swift Box* that they raised their young in last year. The swifts that will breed for the very first year (those that are 3-4 years old), or sexually immature Swifts (1-3 years old) won't arrive in our villages for another couple of weeks (mid to end-May), and these are the ones that will be prospecting for a new nest site or an unoccupied *Swift Box*.

Everyone can do something to help these amazing birds:

- If you find an injured or grounded swift, contact Nicky on **07870 412830** or Chris on **07701 074856** **immediately**, and we can advise on immediate actions and arrange to take the swift to a specialist rehab facility.
- Please record any natural or artificial nest sites being visited by swifts on the Derbyshire Swift Conservation website derbyshireswiftconservation.co.uk/swift-survey-form
- We can protect their existing nesting sites by avoiding work on roofs, barge and fascia boards between mid-April to end-August.
- We can encourage housebuilders and homeowners to ensure places for swifts are included in new and renovated buildings.
- We can grow insect-friendly plants in our gardens and stop using insecticides and biocides.

Want to know more about swifts or want to get involved in saving our swifts? Please contact Derbyshire Swift Conservation via their website derbyshireswiftconservation.co.uk. The photo is of an adult swift in a *Swift Box* on Furnall Avenue, taken by Chris 'Ninja' Thirtle.

Nicky Loveday


Longstone Open Gardens – More Needed!



This will take place on the first weekend of Longstone Week, 11th-12th July. Gardens will be open from 11am-5pm on Saturday, and 1-5pm on Sunday. We just need more gardens, so please consider it!


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

Joyce Glencross



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Parish Council Notes

The following are extracts from the official minutes from the GL Parish Council meeting on 11th March. These are published on the Parish Council noticeboard outside Longstone School as well as the village website greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk.

Attendance

Cllrs Jane Rigby (Chair), Phillip Barrett, James Cox, Andy Douglass, Stevie Hornsey, Simon Headington (Clerk) and District Cllr H Froggatt.

Public Comments

District Cllr Froggatt spoke about changes to council taxes for 2026/27 and reminded members of the community projects scheme, which will be open again soon for small community-focused projects. She also discussed the recent Housing Needs Survey and commented that the community response had been much higher than similar surveys that have taken place in the area.

Clerk's Report

Submitted precept demand for 2026/27 (£23,835); replaced battery on Tea Hut Defibrillator; reported various potholes; sorting out HMRC Registration; obtained second quote for cherry tree and arranged for work to be done; continuing work related to the Neighbourhood Plan; sent out Quarry and Agricultural invoices.

Staffing Committee

Met on 29th January; Cllr Hornsey elected Chair. The following policies and procedures were approved: Dignity at Work Policy, Employee Privacy Notice, Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures, Health and Safety Policy, Sickness Absence Policy, Training and Development Policy. The appointment of Simon Headington was confirmed as salaried Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), on Local Government Scale LC1 Points 7-12, commencing on Point 7, with effect from 1st February. The Clerk's request for the Council to fund membership of the Society of Local Government Clerks was approved.

Allotments

It had been previously agreed to switch from a fixed price per plot to charges based on the actual plot sizes. The measured plots ranged from 38-80 m². The half-plots varied from 35-40 m². It was agreed that the rental year will be 1st October to 30th September; there will be no charges levied for the period to 30th September 2026, to compensate the allotment tenants for

the disruption caused by the closure of the allotment gardens during the summer of 2025; the rent for the year commencing 1st October will be £0.45 per square metre; in future, rent increases will be linked to the Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure in July for the upcoming year. The Clerk will prepare an Allotments Policy and updated Tenancy Agreements to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Douglass reported two steering committee meetings and a public meeting had been held. Results of both the Housing Needs Survey (95 responses) and the Longstone Area Community Survey (167 responses) had been received. The level of responses was significant, given the size of our local population, and was very positive. The six workstreams (Climate Mitigation and Renewable Energy, Land Management and Nature Recovery, Transport, Business and Tourism, Housing and Community) were now reviewing the output of the surveys in order to plan next steps.

DDDC Housing Needs Survey

This covered all five of the Civil Parishes within the Ecumenical Parish (Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Rowland, Hassop and Wardlow), which also matches the UTE distribution area. Its conclusion was that the current need within Great Longstone is for nine properties, six 1-bedroom, two 2-bedroom and one 3-bedroom unit. The next stage is to find suitable sites within or close to the village. Cllrs were reminded the project was still at a very early stage and there were significant obstacles to be overcome before any additional housing might be built.

Recreation Ground

Cllr Barrett and Cllr Douglass have installed the new noticeboard on the Tennis Court fencing. The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident worried about footballs coming into her garden, and the risk of them causing injury to visiting children. They also complained people were climbing over the wall to access her garden without permission. It is difficult to stop balls from going over the fence, but users will be asked to take more care. The Clerk will put up warning tape in places where walls were being climbed, in addition to a notice instructing people how to find the front entrance of the properties, so that they can request the return of balls.

Village Green

A second, lower quote for work on the Cherry Tree, and the contractor instructed the contractor to go ahead with the project. The contractor knows it is in a Conservation Area and that they must obtain appropriate permission from PDNPA.

Closed Churchyard

It was agreed to accept a grant of £590 from Peak District National Park Foundation for tools and seeds for the Churchyard Volunteer Group. The Clerk will liaise with the Churchyard Volunteer Group over ordering bluebell bulbs and wildflower seed, at a cost of £128.34 + VAT.

Old Infant School Building

The Clerk has been contacted by someone looking at renting the Old Infant School Building as a base for a Forest School Nursery. He was currently discussing Heads of Terms with the property agent and was expecting to have to apply for planning permission for a change of use from F1 (Schools) to E (Nurseries).

Camper Vans on Moor Road

The Highways Department at DCC have confirmed that none of the lay-bys on the section of Moor Road between the cattle grid and the sharp bend at the top of the hill belong to the Council. Therefore, all are the responsibility of the Landowner or their tenant. The lead from the Neighbourhood Plan Land Management and Nature Recovery Workstream will discuss this further with the tenant.

Highways

Glorious Gravel Cycling Event: This will pass through the parish on 14th March, including Longreave Lane, Moor Road and Chertpit Lane, and involves 100 to 150 cyclists.

Longstone Edge Cycling Hill Climb:

This annual event will be on Wednesday evening, 17th June. The organisers will arrange the Moor Road closure between the Leys Lane/Chertpit Lane turning and the top of the hill.

Severn Trent: Severn Trent staff have carried out extensive investigations of the combined drains system, looking specifically for places where excessive amounts of ground water could be entering into their network.

Highways/DCC: Blocked gulleys have been reported on Church Lane (x2), New Road near Longstone Hole Bridge, and the junction of Mires Lane and Longreave Lane, but with no response. Cllr Cox said there was another blocked gully on Station Road. Pothole reports had been a bit more successful and one

on Main Street, close to the allotments, had been repaired quite promptly.

Village Hall

The Village Hall Charity's Annual General Meeting took place on 10th March. The Trustees have obtained a grant towards the cost of improving the electrical wiring system and the purchase of new chairs.

Village Week

Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th July. A number of village organisations are planning community events. The main ones over the first weekend will be the PCC Open Gardens, the FOLS Colour Run and Fete and the Well Blessings. Little Longstone Parish Meeting are looking into organising a musical event on the Sunday. On the second weekend, LASRA will run their sports day. Little Longstone Chapel Flower Festival will run all week and there will be other events, including a musical evening at the Crispin on Thursday 16th.

Annual Parish Meeting

There will be updates on the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed move of Thornhill House to a new site. It was agreed that LASRA and LEAP should be invited to present as well.

Land Registrations

The Land Registry records for the Village Greens (DY482175) and West Green/Allotments (DY318854) now both show the Village Hall as the postal address for the Parish Council. This has taken over 10 months since the application was lodged by the Council's Solicitor. The Recreation Ground (DY461279) was updated to the same address last year. Registration of the Moor Road properties is ongoing.

Planning Applications

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

26 The Meadows, Grisedale Road

West NP/DDD/0126/0096. Proposed single storey side extension. **Granted Conditionally**

Longstone Hall NP/DDD/0725/0657 and NP/DDD/0725/0658. Multiple changes. This has now come back with multiple additional plans and reports. After reviewing the main changes to the application, the Council resolved to make no further representations.

No comments

22 The Meadows, Grisedale Road West NP/DDD/0326/0237. Alterations and rear extension. The Council noted this was the second extension application in under 12 months, for the same property. The Clerk will write to PDNPA with the following concerns: The Plans and Elevations (Existing) on 0326/0237 do not match the Plans and Elevations (Proposed) on 0325/0219; the cumulative extensions may undermine the character of the parent building, possibly contrary to policies DMH7 and DMC3; the Block Plan on application shows three off-road parking spaces 0325/0219, as required by DMT8 and the PDNPA Parking Standards. They appear again in the Block Plan for 0326/0237, though do not appear to have been constructed yet. The Council felt that if this application is approved, a requirement be included that this element of 0325/0219 should be completed before any work on this new application is commenced.

Policies

The Publication Scheme (required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000) was approved, as was the Information Technology and Social Media Policy (required by paragraph 1.54 of the Practitioners' Guide 2025), subject to an update to confirm that personal cloud storage accounts can be used for documents that are already in the public domain. The Biodiversity Policy (required by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural

Communities Act 2006 as amended by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021) is still outstanding. It was agreed to update Standing Orders to read that Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Asset Register and Publication Scheme be reviewed annually at the Annual Meeting of the Council (AMC), in May, and that all other policies be reviewed annually at the first full meeting of the Council after the AMC. The Scheme of Delegation (March 2026) was adopted with immediate effect, to be reviewed annually or upon changes to legislation, whichever is sooner.

Items of Late Correspondence

A local resident was concerned about damage caused by cars parking on the triangle of land by the junction of Longreave Lane with the A6020. As this is within the Parish of Ashford in the Water, the Clerk will pass on contact details for the Ashford Clerk to the resident, and pass the concern on to the Transport workstream of the Neighbourhood Plan project.

The Hope Valley Climate Action group have proposed the frequency of the 173 bus service be changed to hourly and start earlier and finish later, and for buses to be timed to meet trains at Hope Station. A letter of support will be sent to the Mayor of the East Midlands Combined Authority.

Items from Councillors

Cllr Douglass asked that payments for services relating to Village Week be discussed at the May meeting.

Dates of next meetings

7pm Wednesdays 13th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November, Annual Parish Meeting 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**

Little Longstone Parish Notes

The following are extracts from the official minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th March in Little Longstone Chapel.

Present: Mr J Cotterill (Chair), Ms G Blair, Mrs J Blair, Mrs C Cotterill, Mr and Mrs K Adamson, Mrs C Burns, Mrs A Plowright, Mr G Brooke, Mrs J Gledhill, Ms L Statham, Ms K Askew, Mrs A

Whittlestone, Mr S Headington and Mrs S Stokes (Clerk). Apologies were received from Caroline Leatherday (Director of Governance and Corporate Services at DDDC) and Mrs E Lee. Ms L Statham declared an interest in matters on the agenda (as a business owner in parish and FOLs representative for Longstone School), as did Mr S Headington from GL parish.

Retirement of Parish Clerk: Notice has been given, for approximately winter

26/27. Dalc have sent guidance on the recruitment process, recommending meeting the recruit in line with normal Parish Council procedures, though there is no absolute requirement to do so. The Clerk and Chair will look into this.

Chair's position: The Chair is elected at the APM in May. The current Chair asked for new recruits, as he has been Chair for three years and wishes to step down on 27th May at the latest. The

Chair and Clerk are happy to help with the process if someone steps forward before the APM. The Clerk is happy to support a new Clerk or new Chair before or after retirement.

Financial Matters

Payments approved: Little Longstone Chapel £250 (donations for xmas lights/trees from the Chair's fund), Under The Edge £850, Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport £1000, LEAP £850, LASRA (S137 payment) £744, LASRA (Chair's fund) £106, A Plowright (bulbs for biodiversity project) £129, A Plowright (flowers for well dressing) £26, T Walton (defib light) £99, S Stokes (bunting) £579, Community Heartbeat Trust (Annual Subscription) £162, Community Heartbeat Trust (Annual Telephone) £72, Little Longstone Chapel (room hire) £80, Sarah Stokes (admin) £1608, Sarah Stokes (expenses) £161. The Clerk's expenses include funds towards computer repair bill.

Bank and Savings accounts: Savings book updated for Mansfield. Savings accounts – Mansfield £92,708, Skipton £25,737. Bank accounts – RBS current £1000, Reserve £4224. December payment by Fredericks is still due, this is often the case, Clerk is chasing.

Well dressing and flower purchases: The Clerk understands the well dressing will go ahead, though a meeting has not taken place. A discussion over costs of flowers, using own garden flowers, and buying from the flower market resulted in decision to allocate £600, to include flower festival (£6 x £30 for the window displays), clay (anticipated to be around £150) and the well dressing flowers (£270). If one person buys wholesale for both well dressing and flower festival, this would be cheaper. Receipts for the flower festival and the well dressing are to be passed to the Clerk in a timely manner. It was agreed to buy a small pack of lamppost poppies for remembrance. Two local musicians have agreed to play at the well dressing, a third won't currently commit (the Clerk will ask again if can commit). Grumpah band was not approached as most members at a previous meeting felt it was too expensive for the numbers who attended. £300 was agreed for the cost of the local musician. Details of well dressing have been sent to 'Visit Peak District.'

Clerk's pay scale: It was agreed that the Clerk's scale be moved from Nalc scale 17 to scale 20, £16.08 to £16.90

per hour, from 1st April. The Clerk is to prepare the Annual Governance and Accounting statements and 2025/26 Audit. Internal audit booked in April with Allen West and Foster.

Monsal Head

Car Park Lease: DDDC will publish notices in a local paper of the 'disposal of public open space' for two weeks as part of the deed of surrender. LLPM had granted permission in October, but this did not get through. The lease and deed of surrender can be signed by the Chair and Caroline Leatherday of DDDC following the notices appearing. The deed of surrender of the open space should have occurred years ago when the land became a car park.

Power take off point: DDDC have confirmed that Derwent Treescapes have honoured the quote from May 2023 of £3560 plus VAT for the 'trench from new feeder pillar near pay machine and install trader's pillar in cobbled area' for the ice cream van. £4000 plus VAT was approved, to include unexpected costs for the work, which can now go ahead following Easter holidays. The work needs to be carried out soon, so it can be put in the next ice cream van site tender this year. The Clerk will get timings so Fredericks ice cream van can be relocated and will also inform local Monsal businesses. Further work on this project is also required, to be organised and paid for by DDDC.

Litter/bins/benches: All benches now stained and look in good order. Wall work required opposite the Monsal has been reported to DDDC.

Ice cream van 'No parking' signage: When the power take off work is carried out, the hatched area will need re-lining and the space possibly widening. Painting the hatch in red was suggested to show the ice cream area is different. The licence expires end of December 2026, and the Clerk will look at this in the summer (it is normally a 3-year lease).

Monsal Dale/Viaduct

After the last meeting, the Clerk wrote to Lord Burlington of Chatsworth, DCC and Peak Park about a number of matters. Chatsworth will carry out work on the Netherdale bridge and tree work. The Clerk, Mrs S Barrett (N Plan team) and Mr K Adamson will meet with DCC and Peak Park and Clerk in March to look at the path from the viewpoint down towards the viaduct. Peak Park have suggested a different meeting with DCC to look at the other

areas, to be arranged by the Clerk. Mr K Adamson circulated photos of the main issues.

Other matters

Generic email: New email clerk@littlelongstoneparishmeeting.gov.uk

is now active, to run alongside the old one for the time being. Clerk will let organisations know of the change.

Xmas tree: Mr and Mrs J Longsdon to be thanked for all their hard work installing and removing the village xmas tree and lights.

Village week: 11th-19th July. Mrs L Cooper has agreed to do the well blessings for GL and LL. FOLS are looking into a parade involving GL and LL on Saturday 11th July, involving Mrs L Cooper and the school event, from 12- 3pm. What used to happen was parade from Croft Road. Turners will install and remove the bunting for £100 an hour plus VAT (as last year). There is twice as much bunting this year, due to funds from District Cllr Frogatt. It was agreed to allow £850 for the work. The Chair highlighted the Open Gardens on 11th and 12th – all are encouraged to open their gardens in Little Longstone, but if not, to consider a tub of flowers to join in with the event.

Parking/speeding/streetlights: Clerk still working with County Cllr Sutton to get some relining carried out. Speeding through the village noted.

Footpaths: Severn Trent (following work on Main Rd) had noted a culvert on the public footpath in the field adjacent The Hollows requires work, currently has slabs on it. The Clerk has informed the landowner.

Trough area: Chair to look at bench staining and trough pump (awaiting contractor for new pump). Light in kiosk has been fixed.

Biodiversity project: Seeds were sown in the pinfold but there are so many weeds and stones; needs a working party to remove weeds in the verge. Bulbs have been moved near the pinfold away from the entrance. Looking at sowing seeds and home-grown plug plants (which are more effective) such as oxeye daisies and pink campion in a square or circle. Mrs A Plowright put in for a wildlife grant project in her own name (prior to the LLPM), to remove the concrete from the pinfold that was there due to historic storage of an ice cream cart and restore good order. This was unsuccessful as the land is not owned by the Parish. The pinfold is a historic cultural item and there was a request

for LLPM to look into registering the area as common land. 7 other local parishes, such as Monyash and Curbar, have listed their pinfold with Derbyshire Heritage. The Clerk and the biodiversity team will look at the Pinfold information already gathered before the next meeting.

Village maintenance: The Cox/Cardona quote has had two verges removed from the schedule of works, but there is no reduction in price, due to higher rates and costs. The 'Mowing and strimming and other work' quote is £3,900, with an option for glyphosate-free bee-friendly weed killer £480 on top, and chapel mowing by Cox £1,600. Cox/Cardona are to be

asked for a breakdown of costs and hours in prep for looking at workload and costs for 2027.

Neighbourhood Plan: Meeting held in Village Hall on 25th February. 55 people attended, and further information will be going in UTE.

FOLS (Longstone School): Mrs L Statham (Fols rep) highlighted that Fols is a charity looking to raise money for school projects such as play equipment (funding £4-5k to date) and Forest School, which attracts numbers to school for outside studying. Equipment is needed for PE and funds for trips and books, and they have paid for an illustrator. Clerk has asked Dalc how funds can be given, reply so far

received on powers of LLPM. This will be discussed at the APM in May.

Peak District in Switzerland: Ms G Blair highlighted this is a climate action pilot for Hope Valley (the 173 bus goes into Hope Valley from Bakewell). This is part of a national pilot with buses every hour with extended hours (7pm – midnight).

Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting 28th May.

Contact Details: Sarah Stokes, Clerk to Little Longstone Parish Meeting, Longstone Byre, Little Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1NN. Tel: **01629 640851**. Email: **clerk@littlelongstoneparishmeeting.gov.uk**

Longstone Horticultural Society Dates

Our popular Plant Swap will be held on Saturday 9th May from 10am to 1pm, as usual by the Village Cross. Bring plants and exchange them for others available!

The Horticultural Show will take place on Saturday 22nd August in the Village Hall, and we hope as many of you as possible will be interested in entering. Full details are in the entry form below (a full page version will be published nearer the date), which will also be available at The Village Shop and Cox's farm.

This year we are delighted to have a new class, **Creative Art**, and a trophy will be awarded to the winner. This has been kindly donated by Mrs Cath Cox in memory of Roger.

Wendy Hanna

Longstone & District Horticultural & Garden Society Show

Saturday 22nd August, 2026, Great Longstone Village Hall

Open for exhibitors 9.30-11am and members of the public from 3pm

Entries are FREE, One entry per person per class only

Class	Qty	SECTION 1	VEG & FRUIT	✓	Class	Qty	SECTION 4	DOMESTIC	✓
1	3	Potatoes	Any variety		26	1	Loaf of Bread	Wholemeal or white	
2	6	Pea pods	Any variety		27	3	Savoury Scones	On a plate	
3	6	Broad Bean pods	Any variety		28	5	Ginger Biscuits	On a plate	
4	6	Runner Beans	Any variety		29	1	*Cheese & Tomato Quiche	On a plate	
5	3	Beetroot	Any variety		30	4	Flapjacks	On a plate	
6	2	Cucumbers	Any variety		31	1	**Apple Cake	On a plate	
7	3	Courgettes	Any variety		32	1	Jam of any fruit	Jar	
8	5	Tomatoes	Any variety		33	1	Marmalade	Jar	
9	3	Onions	Any variety		34	1	Chutney	Jar	
10	4	Carrots	Any variety		35	4	Eggs	On a plate	
11	1	Tray of Vegetables	1 each of 3 different types of vegetable				SECTION 5	HANDICRAFT made in last 18 months	
12	1	Plate of 1 type of fruit	Own choice		36	1	Hand knitting	Any article	
13	1	Collection of cut culinary herbs	4 different types: flowering or non-flowering		37	1	Crochet	Any article	
		SECTION 2	FLORAL ART		38	1	Cross Stitch	Any article	
14	1	Small wreath Arrangement any shape max.30cm dia.	Fresh foliage and garden flowers		39	1	Patchwork and/or Quilting and/or Applique	Any Article	
15	1	Arrangement on a saucer/sideplate	Fresh foliage and garden flowers		40	1	Canvas work	Any article	
16	1	Green Arrangement	Greenery only		41	1	Embroidery (not in above classes)	Any article	
17	1	Miniature Arrangement	No more than 10cm/4ins overall				CREATIVE ART		
18	1	Year of the Book Arrangement	Display of flowers and foliage - <i>bought flowers may be used</i>		42	1	Picture	Art - any medium	
		SECTION 3	FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE		43	1	Photograph	Featuring "a door/s"	
19	6	Pansies or violas	Blooms		44	1	Woodwork	Any subject	
20	1	Sweet Peas	Vase of mixed colours				SECTION 6	OUTDOOR CLASS	
21	5	Cosmos - 5 stems	Any variety		45	1	Decorated Watering Can - Any size		
22	3	Roses	Any variety				SECTION 7	CHILDREN	
23	1	Cut flowers	In a Vase		46	1	Home made muffins	Any flavour	
24	1	Flowering plant	Max 25cm pot		47	1	Painting/drawing of Book Character	A4 size max.	
25	1	Foliage plant	Max 25cm pot		48	1	Garden on a plate	Max. 28cm dia. plate	
					49	1	Animal Magic - made from veg and/or fruit	Cocktail sticks allowed	

*Add label with ingredients ** Recipe to be given in a future UTE

Children's Section (0-5yrs; 6-8yrs; 9-11yrs): Child's Age..... Adult Section 12+ years

Complete forms to be handed in at the Village Shop or Cox's Milk Parlour by 8pm, Thursday, 20th August

I hereby enter the class(es) marked above, subject to the rules and regulations.

Name: Tel.No

Longstone Local History Group

At the latest meeting of the Longstone Local History Group on 21st April, Ian Pykett of Ashford – with the aid of photographs and recordings – talked about the history of organ building and how these instruments are operated. His presentation covered many aspects of the colourful history of the pipe organ from Classical Antiquity to the present day. As part of his talk, and to bring a focus on some local history, he told the story of the installation of the organ in our own parish church of St Giles.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when our guest speaker, Margie Burnet (archivist at Haddon Hall), will talk about the history and restoration of this notable local building.

Peter Donaldson

Deep Yellow Yolks on the Menu Again



Isla Cox's hens are enjoying their freedom again, after being cooped up from November due to bird flu restrictions. For really orange yolks, you need to add paprika or saffron to their diet, apparently!

FLOWER FESTIVAL
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Saturday 9th–16th May
9th and 10th 1.30-5pm
11th-16th 10am-5pm

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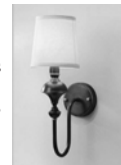
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Funny Story by Emily Henry. Daphne always loved the way her fiancé Peter told their story. How they met (on a blustery day), fell in love (over an errant hat), and moved back to his lakeside hometown to begin their life together. He really was good at telling it - right up until the moment he realized he was actually in love with his childhood best friend Petra. Which is how Daphne begins her new story. Stranded in beautiful Waning Bay, Michigan, without friends or family but with a dream job as a children's librarian that barely pays the bills, and proposing to be roommates with the only person who could possibly understand her predicament, Petra's ex, Miles Nowak. Scruffy and chaotic, Miles is exactly the opposite of practical, buttoned up Daphne, whose coworkers know so little about her they have a running bet that she's either FBI or in witness protection.

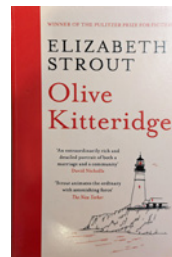
This book is a real treat for fans of Henry, or the perfect place to start if you are new to her. I devoured it in just a few sittings. It's a wonderful, easy read filled with all the classic Emily Henry touches her readers love. What I appreciate most is how real her writing feels. If you enjoy contemporary romance, this one is definitely a must-read. **Rating 5/5**



How to Stop Time by Matt Haig. Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but he was born in 1581. Owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. From Shakespeare's England to Jazz Age Paris and voyaging the Pacific, Tom has seen a lot, and now craves an ordinary life. Always changing his identity to stay alive, Tom now has the perfect cover, working as a history teacher at a London school. Here, he can teach the kids about wars and witch hunts as if he'd never witnessed them first-hand. He can try to tame the past that is fast

catching up with him. The only thing Tom mustn't do is fall in love. *How to Stop Time* is a wild, bittersweet, time-travelling story about losing and finding yourself; about the certainty of change, the mistakes humans are doomed to repeat, and about the lifetimes it can take to learn how to live.

This is such a refreshing and distinctive read. It's an ambitious yet accessible book, offering thoughtful observations on human nature, greed, death, love, and pride. Haig explores what makes us human and how far we'll go to protect ourselves and those we care about. Beautifully written, it's a remarkable story that reminds us that no matter how long our lives may be, what truly matters is living in the present. **Rating 5/5**



Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. Olive herself has always been certain that she is 100% correct about everything, although lately, her certitude has been shaken. This indomitable character appears at the centre of these narratives that all contain Olive Kitteridge. In each of them, we watch Olive, a retired schoolteacher, as she struggles to make sense of the changes in her life and the lives of those around her, always with brutal honesty, if sometimes painfully. Olive will make you laugh, nod in recognition, as well as wince in pain or shed a tear or two. We meet her stoic husband, bound to her in a marriage both broken and strong, and her son, tyrannised by Olive's overbearing sensitivities.

The book's structure was very interesting - a series of short stories in which the title character drifts in and out, sometimes the protagonist, and at others just a cameo. Some readers find this disorienting and rather slow, but for me the cumulative effect was quietly powerful. Each chapter adds another brushstroke to an unsentimental portrait of a seemingly ordinary woman, revealing her flaws alongside her kindnesses in a genuinely moving way. **Rating 4/5**

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May Farming Notes



There's been a wonderful shift in the last few weeks. Longer days are now stretching out, with sunrise before 6am and sunset after 8pm. Last spring was very dry at this time in April – we had hardly any rain at all – but this year, I am thankful for April showers and enough dry weather and sunshine to do the necessary field work, such as chain

harrowing and rolling. Harrowing and rolling drags out dead grass to promote new growth and flatten out ruts.

Our focus has been to harrow and roll fields where the cattle have been, as the ground gets pitted and lumpy where they winter out. It is satisfying to see the land recover after winter time with a fresh flush of green. The sheep

and cattle start to eat more grass and less hay, so this lessens the burden of feeding!

I have also enjoyed seeing wildlife around the farm, as the return of the swallows is always something to notice and enjoy. Swallows are some of the most familiar and welcome birds in the UK – symbols of spring, long journeys, and open countryside. There are several barns and stables that the swallows use for their nests on the farm. It's important they have a home, as swallows are said to be in decline for a number of reasons – fewer insects and places to nest being the most likely reasons. It seems they are very happy and thriving here each year, and I find their presence at Dale Farm is very welcome, with their chitter-chatter sounds and constant swooping around the fields and farmyard as they feed on insects.

On Sunday 19th, we heard the cuckoo call for the first time. The cuckoo's arrival in April is said to signal the end of winter and the start of a new season. There's some interesting folklore around when you hear the cuckoo call, and whether it brings good fortune or bad luck.

In the month ahead, we are expecting lambs to start to arrive, and shortly after we should also have the first Highland calves of the year, so it's an exciting time!

Joanna Shimwell



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Dear All,

May, New Life, and Signs of Hope

The landscape of our United Benefice has undergone a remarkable transformation. The hush of winter has given way to the vibrant, unruly symphony of a Derbyshire spring. Trees have softened into green, blossom brightens old walls and garden paths, and fields and lanes begin to look full of promise again. Even the air feels different. After the searching season of Lent and Holy Week, May brings with it a sense of release. The world seems to breathe again, which makes it a lovely month in the Church's year.

We can easily think of Easter as one great Sunday and then move on too quickly. But the Church does not do that. Easter is not over in a day. We continue to live in the Easter season, and May falls right in the middle of it. This is a month not of "business as usual" but of learning to live in the light of new life.

That matters because Easter is not simply about something that happened long ago. It tells us something about the character of God and the shape of Christian hope. It tells us that death and despair do not have the last word. It tells us that God is always able to bring life out of what looks tired, worn or beyond hope.

Most of us know the need for that hope. Life is not always straightforward. We carry worries, disappointments, grief,

questions and weariness. Faith is not always bright and strong. Sometimes it is simply the quiet decision to keep going, to keep praying, and to trust that God has not finished with us yet.

That is why the resurrection stories are so encouraging. The risen Jesus does not appear only in moments of triumph. He comes in a garden. He walks alongside puzzled travellers. He stands among frightened disciples behind closed doors. He meets people where they are. And he still does.

As St John records Jesus saying, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (*John 10:10*). Not a shallow or easy life, but a fuller one: deeper, steadier, richer in hope.

Across the Bakewell Benefice, we are blessed at this time of year with many signs of that kind of life. In villages, fields and gardens, in ancient church buildings and gathered congregations, in quiet faithfulness and neighbourly kindness, there are reminders that God is still at work among us. Soon, in our villages, well dressings will speak of beauty, gratitude, tradition and shared effort. Whatever their long history, they remain signs of people offering something lovely together.

For Christianity is never only about ideas in our heads. It is about thanksgiving, shared life and learning to notice grace in ordinary places. A church open for prayer, blossom

against old stone, a kind word from a neighbour, the steady dedication of volunteers – all these can remind us that God is still quietly present.

Later in May, from Rogation Sunday, the Church turns toward Ascension and Pentecost: Christ reigning in glory, and the Holy Spirit given to ordinary people. These festivals remind us that we are not left to manage life and faith by ourselves. We are accompanied, strengthened and called forward.

St Paul writes, 'If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation' (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). In May, with the world bursting with new life around us, that can feel less like an abstract doctrine and more like something we can glimpse for ourselves.

As the old proverb says, 'While there's life, there's hope'. May we give thanks for signs of new life. And share that hope with others.

With blessings,

David Hardman

Holy Trinity, Ashford in the Water

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond

07935 873930

cubanheel26@btinternet.com

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**St. Giles Great Longstone
& Church of the Good
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Services in May**

+L-Longstone, R-Rowsley

3rd May – Easter 5

9am Eucharist (Wardlow)
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)
6pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

10th May – Easter 6

9.30am Sung Eucharist (Ashford) (+L)

14th May – Ascension Day

7pm Eucharist (St Giles)

17th May – Easter 7

10.30am Eucharist (St Giles) (+R)
(for Flower Festival)
6pm Benefice Evensong (Bakewell)

24th May – Pentecost

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

31st May – Trinity Sunday

9.30am Benefice Eucharist (Ashford)

May in the Garden

Lawns: Apply lawn fertiliser and continue regular mowing, apply fungicides for disease control and weed killing.

Roses: Spray with Roseclear or similar product to control pests and diseases.

Herbaceous plants: Control weeds by hoeing between plants, stake tall plants such as delphiniums and water newly planted beds.

Dahlias: Plant out young plants when danger of frost has passed, stake and label each plant.

Chrysanthemums: Plant out flowering varieties in garden, also pom-poms. Scatter slug bait.

Sweet peas: Hoe around plants, mulch in dry weather. Tie in cordons as they grow.

Flowers from seed: Make sowings of hardy and half hardy annuals when risk of frost has passed. Sow hardy biennials in drills in nursery bed.

Trees and shrubs: Plant out shrubs that are tender when young (fuchsia, arbutus, choisys and hydrangeas) and keep watered until well established. Cut off dead flowers and thin out shoots that are weak from shrubs that have finished flowering. Remove dead wood and thin shoots from forsythias to keep in shape.

Fruit: Control pests when seen. Feed and water all fruit when fruit is swelling. Tie up new shoots on blackberries and loganberries. Control weeds around trees and bushes in the cultivated ground. Protect strawberry fruit with straw and scatter slug bait.

Vegetables: Cover potatoes if frost is forecast. Prepare site for sowing marrows. Make sowings of summer spinach, salad crops, beetroot and French beans.

General tasks: Spray roses, fruit bushes and broad beans weekly against aphids and caterpillars. Apply liquid feeds or dress with fast-acting fertiliser and water in.



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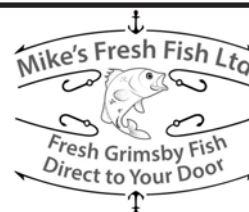


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Gaeng Massaman Nue (Massaman Beef Curry)

Thai food is generally considered to knock an Indian Vindaloo into a cocked hat when it comes to mouth-searing heat, thanks to liberal use of eye-watering

100g potatoes

1 tsp oil

1 medium onion

3 cardamon pods

1 tbsp Massaman
curry paste

1 cinnamon stick

2 star anise

2 bay leaves

450ml coconut milk

250g beef strips

1 tbsp roasted peanuts

2 tsp palm sugar

2 tbsp fish sauce

2 tsp tamarind juice

bird's-eye chillis. But Thailand is a large country, and you'll find mild, coconutty dishes in the south, derived originally from Malay and Persian cuisines. 'Massaman' just means Muslim, and this curry, which can also be made with chicken, is the equivalent of an Indian Korma. Although you can make your own Massaman curry paste, from galangal, lemongrass and shrimp paste with other spices, it's much easier to buy a jar!

Boil the potatoes in their skins for 12-15 minutes (they should still be slightly firm in the middle), then peel and slice into 2cm cubes. Fry the finely chopped onion in oil for 8-10 minutes, until soft but not coloured. Deseed the coriander pods, and roast the seeds over a medium heat for 3-5 minutes, to release their aroma.

Fry the curry paste in a casserole dish for 1 minute with 2 tbsp coconut milk. Add the cardamon, cinnamon, star anise, bay leaves, beef strips and the rest of the coconut milk, and simmer for 5 minutes. Then add the potatoes, roasted peanuts and onion, warm through, and season with the palm sugar, fish sauce and tamarind. Serve with rice and tenderstem broccoli.



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What's On

Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesdays - Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 19)
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
6th May - WI AGM, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 6)
9th May - Plant Swap, Village Cross, Great Longstone 10am-1pm (page 17)
13th May - LEAP Applique Sewing, GL Village Hall 10am-4pm (page 3) £10
13th May - GL Parish Council Meeting, GL Village Hall 7pm (page 15)
19th May - LL History Group Talk *Margie Burnett*, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 17)
21st May - LEAP Art Talk with Richard Foulkes, GL Village Hall, 7-8pm (page 3) £5
27th May - Scarecrow Face Making, The Canteen, Monsal Head 9am-12 (page 3) £15
27th May - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 3)
28th May - LL Annual Parish Meeting, LL Congregational Chapel, 7pm (page 18)
28th May - Film Club *The Life of Chuck*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 3) £5

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of the few snowy days this winter – at first, Allen thought they had the perfect camouflage, but the snow melted without revealing any ducks, or any blood or feathers. Nor were there any holes in the fencing and hedge – could they have been abducted by aliens? As for the Muscovies, they were starting to spread their wings, and when Allen found them on top of the high coniferous hedge the other side of the road, he decided it was time they all headed for chillier climes!

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 20th May

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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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

01629 640237

www.thecrispingreatlongstone.co.uk

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