UNDER THE EDGE

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GREAT LONGSTONE, LITTLE LONGSTONE,
ROWLAND, HASSOP, MONSAL HEAD, WARDLOW

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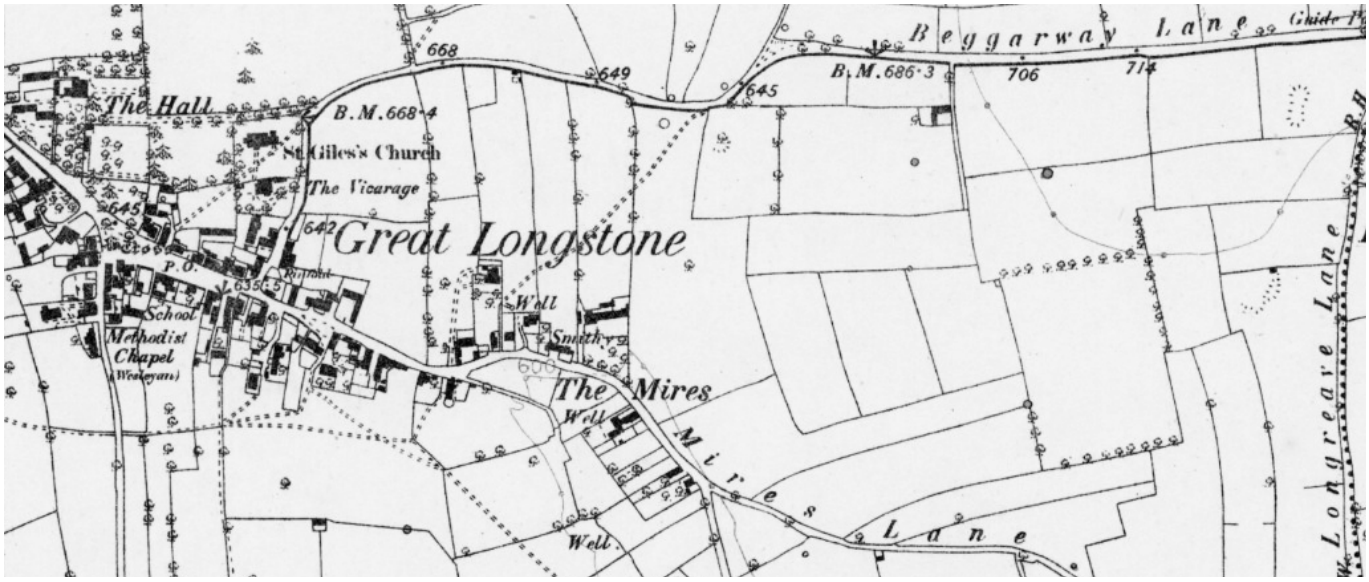
A Mire by Any Other Name...



The Mires in Great Longstone has until recently been the stretch of road from the bottom of Main Street, where it curves round the allotments, down to the junction with Mires Lane, taking its name from the boggy area or 'mire' where lead ore was washed in times past. As of a couple of months ago, following signs put up by the Derbyshire Dales District Council *(UTE September 2026)*, it now continues down to Longreave Lane on what was always known as New Road since its construction in 1860 *(UTE November 2025)*.

Mires Lane, in turn, seems a perfectly logical name for the road leading down to The Mires from Longreave Lane. Indeed, it is even marked as such on the Ordnance Survey map of 1867 *(above)* and all subsequent ones. 'Simples', you might say, 'and so what?' And yet, when the road sign was first put up in the 1980s, it bore the wording 'Miers Lane'. Not for long, though, as Angela Thornhill insisted the Parish Clerk, Derrick Hingley, take it down and replace it with one displaying the 'correct' spelling.

However, you will search in vain on the online Royal Mail postcode finder for any such place as Mires Lane. Search, on the other hand, for Miers Lane, and you will find what you are looking for. You may also be surprised to learn that the postal address for these houses is Rowland, despite the fact that the parish boundary with Great Longstone runs up Longreave Lane – at the far end of Mires Lane – all the way to Beggarway Lane. And just to further confuse matters, the postal address given on this website for Greenways House, a hundred yards or so up the hill on the right of the same lane, is The Mires, Great Longstone!

So was it just an innocent transposition of 'e' and 'r' by a Post Office clerk manually creating a database of postal addresses? After all, it's easy enough to do, as the letters are right next door to each other on a *QWERTY* keyboard. Not so fast, Moriarty! The deeds to Angela Thornhill's own house use the 'Miers' spelling, as does the estate agent's particulars from 1996 for 'Wayside', despite the fact that all the houses

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ELR's 1996 particulars for 'Wayside'

on the lane were built post-1921 – they do not feature on the 1922 Ordnance Survey map – long after the road was first clearly labelled it as 'Mires Lane' on the 1867 version.

And here's another thing. The first house you come to on The Mires, going out of Great Longstone, is Miers Cottage, not Mires Cottage. David Nichols, who lives there, has researched old maps held in the Chatsworth archives, and believes the house dates back at least 350 years, when spelling was more fluid – Shakespeare's name alone was spelt over 80 different ways – but without finding any clues to its origins. So could Miers Lane be so called because it led to Miers Cottage, rather than The Mires?

'Mire' itself first appeared in Middle English around the 1300s, deriving from the Old Norse 'myrr' for bog or swamp, and in those days the 'r' would have been pronounced, as it is today in Scotland and other places with rhotic accents. Non-rhoticity (or silencing of the 'r') started appearing in London and South-East England as early as the 15th century, gathering pace in the 18th and 19th centuries. At a time when spelling had not crystallised, it's easy to see that 'mire' could have been spelt alternatively and phonetically as 'mier'.

But perhaps Miers Cottage is actually Mier's Cottage or even Miers' Cottage? Mier as a name has several possible origins – from the German 'meier' or mayor, where it was the surname of a notable Prussian family in mediaeval times; from the Dutch (and Afrikaans) 'miere' or ant; from the Spanish 'miera' for mine or quarry; and closer to home, from the Anglo-Saxon 'mēre', meaning boundary or boundary marker. The 1881 census records seven people with the name Mier in the Ilkeston area of Derbyshire, out of a total of 47 in the whole of England. There are even more Miers – eighteen – in the area, with eight in the Wirksworth area, five around Buxton, three in Ashborne and two in Derby itself, out of 179 in the whole of England. Sadly, though, there are no headstones or memorials to any Mier or Miers in the Great Longstone, Ashford, Wardlow or Sheldon graveyards.

Call My Bluff was a very popular TV panel game that ran from 1965 to 1988, in which two teams of three would take it in turns to give definitions for an obscure word in the Oxford English Dictionary. The other team would then have to guess which one was correct. 'So there you have it', as Robert Robinson would have said, 'Miers Lane, the result of a slip on a Post Office Clerk's keyboard, an example of the spread of non-rhoticity in the days before dictionaries, or the commemoration of a long-forgotten Dutchman who lived in a boggy swamp?' The only problem in this case is that the true answer remains mired in obscurity...

And just to throw one final spanner in the works, the Tithe Map of 1848 *(below)* clearly marks the lane as Birch Hill Way Lane – not a Mires or Miers in sight!

Thanks to Dave Hepworth for providing the census information

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Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th November in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The talk is *Reignite your Energy* with Catherine Scott. Teas will be done by Lynne Macaskill and Jennifer Rowson, and Zoe McGregor will provide the Mystery Parcel. The competition will be Autumn Decoration. **Zoe McGregor**

Thornhill House Open Day at The Grange

Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Day at The Grange on 3rd October. It was great to see so many people there and to hear your ideas, concerns and offers of help. We will keep you posted as the project develops.

Thanks also to Sarah Winkworth-Smith and Linda Foster for organising a lovely evening on 7th October in aid of Thornhill House. Richard Mayson gave a very interesting talk about LS Lowry, entitled Lowry's Lamps, and he donated several signed copies in aid of the event.

We are currently working very hard on the first early stages of fundraising, which includes applications to grant-making funds including the National Lottery. We are also contacting organisations and businesses that may be able to support us. And of course, we are also extremely grateful to individuals who have already made very generous gifts.

Next year, we will begin the final stage of fundraising, which will involve holding fundraising events, which I expect will keep us very busy. So, this lovely event was by way of an early taster of things to come. Thank you very much to Ashford Church for hosting this event, to Sarah and Linda for organising it and a very special thank you to Richard Mayson.

Lucy Wright

Another Knit and Natter Session Starts Up

Love to knit? Fancy a chat over a cup of coffee? Join us for our new weekly Knit and Natter at Quackers Café, Thornbridge Estate! Starts Tuesday 10th November at 10am, and then every Tuesday.

Bring along your knitting or crochet, enjoy a hot drink, and make some new friends in a welcoming atmosphere. Everyone is welcome, whatever your experience.

Come along – we'd love to see you!

Sam Conneely

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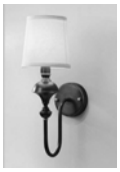

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November Gardening Notes

The hot summer and the mild autumn have really confused the plants, and a good example is the yucca flowering in the border *(see photo)*. This normally flowers in July, but here it is at the end of October, and there is another flower spike emerging. I am cutting down a lot of growth in the borders to allow spring flowers to emerge whilst leaving a few plants for architectural interest. I have a small bed of nettles, which I keep as they are fantastic for the wildlife. I have not seen any hedgehogs recently but we did have one last winter hibernating under our bay tree so I have cleared out his shelter and there are plenty of leaves for a new bed, fingers crossed. The hedges have been trimmed now and I just have a couple of trees to trim back, while the acers are putting on a wonderful display of autumn colour. I did lose a couple of conifers with the hot weather so I will be digging those out and replacing them with new plants.

After a summer-long display of flowers in containers, I have emptied them all and planted tulips, daffodils and muscari. There is still plenty of time to plant up bulbs, and the garden centres have a huge choice. All my tender plants are now in the greenhouse as we did have a frost in September, and I have set up my greenhouse heater to protect the plants from any future frosty nights. I am still cutting the lawns as they have put on a real spurt of growth after such a mild autumn.

Andy Hanna

Monsal Head Climb

Malcolm Elliott (2nd from left at back)

Overall winner Gabe Dellar

Veteran female winner Emilie Verroken

Attending the Monsal Hill Climb is always exciting. It's a gruelling challenge of grit and determination to cycle the 194 feet of elevation in as short a time as possible. This year, there were perfect conditions, and in attendance was the current record holder, Malcom Elliot. His time of 1:14.1 was under threat, a record that has stood since 1981 – 45 years, almost half of the 96 years the event has taken place. Incredible!

There were a few people that seemed to fly up a hill I can barely get to the top of, and grabbed Malcom's attention. But it was Gabe Dellar of Ride Revolution Coaching that came closest to the record with a time of 1:16.7. This was his first attempt on the hill, so maybe next year? There were some remarkable athletes taking part and all the results can be found on the website **monsalhillclimb.com**.

It is seen as the most prestigious hill climb, falling at the end of the season and attracting a large enthusiastic crowd. Cowbells were rung, words of encouragements shouted, hands clapped and jaws dropped in awe. The Monsal provided sustenance and Little Longstone the parking, which raised a fantastic amount of £627 towards the upkeep of the Chapel.

If you fancy a go, entries open in January, or like me, enjoy the spectacle from the sidelines – the next one is on Sunday 3rd October 2027. Finally, to quote the organiser, 'Chapeau to every single rider who gave it their all and battled their way up to Monsal Head, you all deserve a prize in my book!'

The winners of each category were: Overall – Gabe Dellar, Ride Revolution Coaching 1:16.7, Female Overall – Rachel Galler, FTP (Fulfil The Potential) Race Team 1:37.9, Veteran Open Overall – Richard Marsden, Macclesfield Wheelers 1:29.2, Veteran Female Overall – Emilie Verroken, Common Lane Occasionals 1:56.0, Veteran Open 50+ Overall – Steven Prince, Magspeed Racing 1:32.9 *(new categrory record)*, Junior Open Overall – Ed Stubbs, 3C Test Team 1:37.1, Junior Female Overall – Phoebe Langlands, Halesowen A&CC 2:12.4, Youth Open Overall – Stanley Perkins, Matlock CC 1:43.9, Female Youth Overall – Laura Graham-Brown, Leicester Forest CC 2:24.3, Cargo Bike Overall – Ben Williamson, University of Sheffield Cycling Club 2:27.0 *(joint category record)*, Tandem Overall – Nick Hamilton and Simon Choppin, Sheffield Youth Cycling Club and Sheffrec CC 2:38.7 *(new category record)*.

Mike Meurer

November Farming Notes

This talk by Judy Dilks formed part of the Pet and Harvest Celebration Service on 4th October

I'm Judy Dilks, and with my husband Bob, we have been tenants on the Hassop Estate for 36 years. We have three children who are all happily married and living locally, and six incredible grandchildren, all under six years old. Everyone is involved in the farm. 'Hassop Family Farm' is an organic dairy farm supplying raw and pasteurised milk to the public in our farm shop.

Organic farming is a method of grazing crops and raising livestock that works with nature. This means no fertiliser, no pesticides and high standards of welfare, checked annually and certified by the Organic Farmers and Growers, Red Tractor, Arla Organic and Food Standards. Understanding your soil is the most important aspect – my son is and agronomist – and we use only cow manure on our crops. Bees have increased by 75% and we have hives on the farm. We protect water by having five-metre margins on any field next to a river, stream or water course. We've planted trees on the farm, which will give shade for animals in extreme heat, apple trees from which we collect the apples to make pasteurised apple juice to sell in the shop, and replacements for trees that have suffered from ash die-back.

We protect local wildlife, insects and birdlife. Since we became organic, birdlife has increased 50% – we take part in the Farm Bird Watch and an RSPB annual survey, which highlights increases in brown hares, redstarts, song thrushes, linnets and spotted flycatchers. 49 different bird species were recorded in two days. Butterflies on the farm include Wall Brown and four Dark Green Fritillaries.

Our ethos is simply 'Happy cows produce the best quality milk', and they graze the clover-rich organic pastures here in the heart of the Peak District. We don't push our cows with lots of corn, and have less milk as most of our cows are Jersey crossbreeds. We go for quality rather than quantity, working with nature. It's a chain – healthy soils and happy cows produce delicious organic milk with no genetically modified feed involved. Our milk has zero food miles from our organic grass to your glass, all produced by a small friendly family farm that is Organic Farmers and Growers certified. It's natural, local, and fresh every day.

One customer, who has been coming for eight years, said she used to buy four plastic containers of milk in a supermarket every week. Over eight years, that works out at 1,664 plastic containers saved from landfill, as she now uses four-litre glass reusable bottles. That's just one customer!

Farming over the last few years has become more challenging. The weather seems to have polarised into floods or droughts. Staffing costs are huge, that is, if you can get staff, as the hours are long and no-one wants to work weekends. The increase in diesel costs is passed on in higher contractors' fees, and water and electricity are also more expensive. Inspections and paperwork have also increased in time and cost – the Food Standards inspections are now every three months. All our input costs have gone up 50%, but output prices have remained the same. It's no wonder two dairy farmers are closing down every week. There are now only three left in the Bakewell area – there were fourteen when we started.

I've always been passionate about promoting British food and organic farming. I started doing farm visits and going into schools when I was eighteen. Most farms now have to diversify – we did, nine years ago, and now my daughter's left her teaching job to set up our farm shop to sell raw and pasteurised milk from vending machines. The shop is now a hub of life, creating a meeting place for families and friends, and once you have your bottle, you can support any dairy farm all over the country. It helps towards foot trimming, regular vet visits, sand for cow tracks – all preventative measures to help cows' feet and promote good welfare standards.

We also offer farm visits for schools, businesses and families, and recently, Radio Sheffield assisted with milking. Children's events are organised regularly, such as Little Moos for familes in school holidays, which offer farm-related child activities with cows, machinery and trailer rides. Entry is free, but we have just managed to raise £500 for Sheffield Children's Hospital by charging for trailer rides and a bouncy castle.

We answer many questions about farming and food that customers ask us – there is a new era of parents who want to know what food they are putting in their children's mouths.

On the farm today, we are starting our third cut of silage. This is rather a relief, as the first cut has all gone to feed the cows this summer. It's not usually needed till November.

Farming life is challenging – long hours, 24/7, high cost – but it's a close-knit community and very sociable. Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy have just celebrated their Harvest Supper, and Brailsford Ploughing Match is a must for all farmers. Our favourite seasons have to be spring with early mornings and amazing new life, and autumn with glorious mornings and gorgeous coloured leaves, with the harvest hopefully in.

I grew up on a dairy farm – it's hard work, but it's a magical place to grow up, learning and using many life skills before you even start school. I wouldn't have changed my life, and hopefully my family and grandchildren will continue being involved with farming.

Judy Dilks

Robert Thornhill also has Jersey crossbreeds at Standhill Farm

Water Grove Smallpox Hospital

Did you know that we once had a specialist hospital within the parish of Great Longstone?

At the 1909 Annual Parish Meeting, Mr AWJ Eyre, a Parish Councillor who also served on Bakewell Rural District Council, made a passing reference to the 'Small-Pox Hospital at Water Grove'. Today, the site lies outside Great Longstone parish, and the hospital has almost completely disappeared from local memory, but in 1909, it was actually within the parish.

Smallpox was a highly infectious disease, which could cause severe illness, permanent scarring and death. Vaccination had greatly reduced its impact during the nineteenth century, but outbreaks still occurred. A major epidemic in London in 1901–02 resulted in around 9,500 cases and more than 1,500 deaths, while outbreaks followed elsewhere in the country. Derby itself recorded 255 cases during 1903–04. Isolation of anyone who contracted the disease, alongside vaccination and the tracing of their contacts, was therefore an important part of the public-health response.

It was against this background that the Haddon Joint Hospital Board built a small isolation hospital at Water Grove in about 1906–07 to serve the northern part of Bakewell Rural District. The site was in open countryside between Wardlow Mires and Housley, immediately south of what is now the A623.

The land was leased from the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate. The 1910 Valuation Office Survey describes the holding as 'Water Grove – Rough Pasture Land Site of Small Pox Hospital – 4 acres' and records that the hospital had cost approximately £1,466. Part of the land was let for grazing to a neighbouring farmer. Mr Eyre, speaking at the 1909 Parish Meeting, rounded the construction cost to £1,400 and said that the hospital was costing a further £80 a year to maintain.

Old Ordnance Survey maps show the hospital itself occupying an enclosed site immediately below the road. The main hospital building was accompanied by several smaller buildings, its own well and an approach drive. The hospital provided eight beds and was not intended to operate continuously. Instead, it was an emergency facility that could be opened when smallpox appeared in the district. For much of the time, the buildings therefore stood empty.

That might seem an extravagant arrangement, but the purpose of such a hospital was to have somewhere isolated and immediately available to which patients could be removed from their homes before an isolated case became a local outbreak.

Several outbreaks elsewhere in Derbyshire had demonstrated the continuing risk, even though actual admissions to Water Grove appear to have been rare. In the event, Water Grove was built just as the threat of smallpox in England was beginning to recede. After the outbreaks of the first few years of the twentieth century, the disease became increasingly uncommon, although occasional cases and local outbreaks continued to demand a public-health response. The hospital therefore remained part of the district's precautions for many years and was still officially listed in 1926 as an eight-bed smallpox hospital 'at Foolow'.

By then, the Haddon Joint Hospital Board was planning a rather different institution. A new 16-bed Central Isolation Hospital opened on Monyash Road, Bakewell, in 1928 for infectious diseases such as scarlet fever and diphtheria. Water Grove was not immediately replaced by it, however, but continued to be retained separately for smallpox.

Eventually, its usefulness came to an end. In 1944, the Haddon Hospital Board invited tenders for the removal of the buildings at Water Grove. The little hospital, which had been built nearly forty years earlier as protection against a much-feared disease, was dismantled and the land returned to agricultural use.

Today, there is no obvious trace of the hospital. Its precise site can still be identified from old maps at SK 188757, but someone passing along the A623 would have little reason to suspect that an eight-bed isolation hospital once stood in the fields below the road.

Water Grove therefore had an unusual history. It cost a substantial sum to build and maintain, yet appears to have treated relatively few patients. That does not mean it was unnecessary. Like many emergency services, its value lay partly in being there if it was needed. Its long periods of inactivity also reflected something rather more positive: during the first half of the twentieth century, the disease it had been built to contain was gradually disappearing from England.

Simon Headington

The Lych Gates

Walk up Church Lane and it is hard to miss the lovely pair of matching lychgates that frame the entrances to the churchyard and the burial ground. With Remembrance Day fast approaching, it is a good time to look at these and the reason why they were donated.

I had always thought of them as being a general memorial to the fallen of the Great War, but look closer and two men in particular, both from the same family, are commemorated. These are Captain Hubert Dixon of the Sherwood Foresters and his nephew, Lieutenant William Shaw of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

The family's connection with the village goes back to around 1880, when William Pitt-Dixon and his wife, Martha, moved from Lancashire to Great Longstone with their children William, Martha and Hubert. At the time, Hubert was just a baby, with a gap of around ten years between him and his older brother and sister.

Hubert, born in 1879, went to school at Repton before going up to Christ Church, Oxford. In May 1900, aged 21, he was commissioned as an officer in the Sherwood Foresters. He initially joined the regiment in Malta before serving in South Africa during the Boer War. He must have had a busy time, as his campaign medal had four clasps, recognising service in particular campaigns or areas of operations.

Back in Great Longstone, Hubert's sister Martha had married William Longsdon Shaw, and they had homes in Brighton and at The Outrake in Little Longstone. William and Martha had two sons, William Bernard and Francis Cecil. Hubert's older brother, William Rogers Pitt Dixon, regularly appears in the minutes of Parish Council meetings from this period.

After the Boer War, Hubert was back in Malta and later Derby, so it is likely that he was a regular visitor to the village during this period. Perhaps, after the excitement of South Africa, he found garrison duties rather quiet, as in January 1907, he was seconded to the 1st Battalion of the Northern Nigeria Regiment, part of the British West African Frontier Force.

During his five years in Nigeria, he was promoted to Captain, became a Company Commander and passed an examination in Hausa, the language spoken by many of his men. By March 1911, he was commanding a detachment at Katagum, in what is now northeastern Nigeria. Life in Northern Nigeria was certainly dangerous for Europeans at this time, as the writings of Sylvia Leith-Ross illustrate. Leith-Ross came from a family with considerable experience of military and colonial service, which may explain why she was allowed to travel to Northern Nigeria with her new husband in 1907. Sadly, her husband died the following year from complications of malaria. When she travelled home in 1908, she realised that, of the five people who had made the outward journey together, she was the only one still alive. She herself lived until 1980, returning to Nigeria many times over the intervening years.

Hubert survived his time in West Africa and returned to the Sherwood Foresters in February 1912, subsequently serving in India. He must have done well in his chosen profession as, by 1914, he was attending the Staff College at Quetta, preparing for more senior appointments. When war broke out, the college closed and Hubert returned to his battalion. The 1st Battalion sailed from Bombay, arriving in England in October 1914, and was sent to France the following month. By December, the Sherwood Foresters were in the front-line trenches around Neuve Chapelle.

Hubert was back in Great Longstone in January 1915, having arrived just an hour and a half before his mother died. While home on leave, he spoke to a journalist from the *Derbyshire Times* about conditions in the trenches and the unofficial Christmas truce. More about that remarkable account will appear in the December edition of *Under the Edge*.

Hubert returned to France and was involved in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915. Following initial successes, the Germans launched a counterattack and his company found itself almost surrounded. With only eight men remaining, he managed to fight his way back to the British lines.

His commanding officer, in a letter to the family, explained that Hubert then volunteered to go forward again with a few men to help comrades elsewhere on the battlefield. They had gone less than 50 yards when he was shot and killed. He was 36 years old.

Meanwhile, Hubert's nephew, William Bernard Shaw, had also joined the Army. Born at Whitehough Hall, Chinley, in 1894, and baptised at St Giles, William spent his early years at The Manor in Little Longstone. He was studying at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, intending to enter the Church, when war broke out. He joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and went to France. Seriously wounded in February 1916, he recovered and returned to the front later that year. He was killed in action on 12 April 1917, aged just 22.

In September 1917, an application for a faculty (ecclesiastical permission) was submitted to erect two lychgates in memory of Hubert and William. By March 1918, both gates had been erected. They were paid for by members of the Pitt-Dixon and Shaw families and made from English oak by the Longstone builder William J. Eyre.

More than a century later, the gates remain a familiar feature of Church Lane and a lasting memorial to two members of a family whose lives were closely connected with Great and Little Longstone.

Simon Headington

Parish Council Notes

These have been extracted from the official minutes of the GL Parish Council meeting on 9th September, published on the Parish Council noticeboard outside Longstone School as well as online at **greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk**.

Attendance

Cllrs J Rigby (Chair), P Barrett, J Cox, A Douglass, S Hornsey, S Headington (Clerk).

Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group had met on 7th September, for its 18th monthly meeting. The current priority is the drafting of policies, though they are also working on plans to hold a village meeting to update the community on progress whilst also looking at building a consensus on issues such as traffic management. Just as the Neighbourhood Plan process was being started, the government announced the ending of the majority of grant funding that has been available. Spending had been kept to a minimum, though funds were needed for publicity and printing. Limited matched funding might be available from PDNPA but support from the Parish Council would be needed to access this.

Recreation Ground

Playground Weekly Inspections: The preferred option of the 'Safer Play' app will only work if the person carrying out inspections uses an Apple iPad. As the intention is to have a team of volunteers carrying out the inspections, a hardware lock of this sort would not work. The Clerk will look for alternatives.

Birdsnest Swing: Frame replacement would cost around £1,825 (wood) or £2,375 (metal). Both would require £250-£300 ground works to replace the old frame with a new one. The council's preference was for a metal frame as it would have a longer life and lower maintenance costs. Before taking this further, GLPC will explore the feasibility and cost of bespoke brackets, to give the existing frame a few more years of use.

Recreation Ground Buildings: Both buildings were repainted during August. The floor of the Tea Hut is extensively damaged by woodworm, previously hidden by carpet tiles. The whole floor area and subframe needs to be treated for woodworm and damaged boards replaced. It was agreed that if all the work, including treatment and replacing damaged floorboards and joists, can be done for under £1,000, the project could go ahead. If the cost to the Parish Council is going to be more, a full report with proposals, option and costs are to be brought to the next meeting. GLPC confirmed it has no objections to the construction of a Petanque Court on the Rec, as long as all necessary permits and permissions are obtained. A request has been received for a new bench on the Rec. GLPC has previously stated that any offers of new benches will only be accepted for replacing an existing one and it must be manufactured from recycled plastics, to minimise maintenance costs. Further consultation was required before a decision could be made. GLPC and LASRA have agreed that an Annual Review Meeting would be beneficial, though a date has still to be agreed. GLPC's agreement with LASRA includes an annual increase, in the maintenance grant, linked to the increase in the UK Consumer Price Index for July of each year, which this year was 2.9%. Added to 2025's increase of 3.8% means the full cost for 2027 will be £4,000*1.038*1.029, i.e. £4,272.41 or £1,068.10 per quarter. LASRA are prepared to undertake repairs to the goal mouths if the Parish Council funded the materials, which was agreed.

Village Hall

Clause 13.3 Review Meeting scheduled for 7.30pm on 14th October. A discussion took place with regards to the roof. It was explained that seeing daylight through a roof with no internal lining was normal, internal linings only having become common from the 1960s. The roof, covered in original Welsh Slate, was generally thought to be in good condition and should give many more years' service, if regular maintenance, such as the prompt replacement of slipped tiles, takes place. In addition, it was recommended that the ridge tiles should be repointed/relaid soon. Additional quotes for window decorating still being sought. County Councillor has been contacted to seek help in getting an answer from Highways on when the flooding on Church Lane will be dealt with.

Allotments and West Green

All allotments are currently let and there is one new resident on the waiting list. New pump parts approved at July meeting have been ordered and fitted. Pump was then working until the tank dried up due to a lack of rain. Following the recent rain, water is now available again. New Tenancy Agreements have been issued to all allotment holders, plus invoices for 2026/27. Rents now based on plot size and are index-linked to the July CPI figure in the same way as the Rec maintenance agreement. Cllr Cox reported that before he could take any action on the moles on West Green, the dry weather seems to have forced the moles further underground, and no further damage has been seen. He will monitor the situation over the coming months.

The Willows

The Clerk has written to PDNPA Ranger about The Willows, but nothing further heard yet.

Highways and Footpaths

The Mires Road Signs: The Mires is the stretch of road at the bottom end of Main Street, from just below The Beeches to the junction with Mires Lane. In total it is around 110 metres in length and is fronted by 10 properties. Of these 9 are on the right (heading down the road) and are mostly pre-20th century, and one is set back on the left (Flaxdale). The 575-metre section from the Mires Lane junction, to the Longreave Lane junction, built by the parish in the 1860s, has never been formally named, though it has been known as New Road. The Royal Mail has allocated two houses on this stretch the street name The Mires. As noted in other parts of the village the names used by Royal Mail do not necessarily relate to the street names on maps. Two new road signs, installed by DCC, have recently appeared on the unnamed section, one to the south of the Mires Lane junction and one by the new road/Longreave Lane Junction. They do not incorporate the section that actually is Mires Lane. It is understood that this work was done at the request of a local resident who was having problems with delivery vehicles having difficulty finding their property. There was no consultation with GLPC.

Obstructions on Highways and Pavements: A resident appears to be using building supplies to reserve a parking space in front of their property on The Cross. There is a concern that apart from being illegal that this is a risk to other road users. The Clerk is to speak with the occupier. In a number of places in the village, there are hedges and trees, along property boundaries, which are encroaching onto pavement and footpaths. A reminder about responsibilities of property owners will be put into the next issue of *Under*

the Edge, and the Clerk is to follow this up.

Emergency Gritting: The Clerk was given delegated power to book, in consultation with the Chair, emergency gritting if required.

Community Assets Review

Provisionally will start at the builders' quarry at 10am on Sunday 4th October. If insufficient councillors are available that day the review will be moved to the 11th October.

Longstone Village Week

The 2026 event appears to have gone very well. Special thanks to Will and Heather Turner for arranging the putting up and taking down the bunting, and to Lorna Cooper for conducting the blessing of the well dressings. The 2027 Longstone Village Week will be Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th July. The Clerk will notify community groups and Little Longstone Parish Meeting.

Remembrance Sunday Service

This always takes place on the 2nd Sunday in November, which this year is the 9th. The service at the War Memorial is arranged by the PCC and starts at 10.45. The Chair will lay a wreath on behalf of GLPC, to be obtained by the Clerk.

Christmas 2026

The Clerk is to order a suitable tree (cost to be confirmed), plus replacement light bulbs and light strings at a cost not exceeding £440. The Clerk will bring a plan for the Christmas Eve Carols to the November meeting.

Planning Matters

Applications: Old Infant School Building, Main Street NP/DDD/0526/0510. Change from F1 to E(f). ***Granted***

Wagers Flat, Rowland NP/DDD/0626/0626. Amend Restoration Scheme. ***No Decision yet***

White Lion, Main Street NP/DDD/0726/0691. Minor internal works. ***No Decision yet***

Longstone Hall, Main Street NP/DDD/0826/0792. Internal alterations. ***No Comments***

Longstone Hall, Main Street NP/DDD/0826/0829. Removal or relaying of tiles on roof. ***No comments***

Appeals: Longstone Hall, Main Street 6013318 & 6013321. ***Noted***

Neighbouring Parish Meeting

Little Longstone have requested S101 administrative support from GLPC. The Clerk will bring a full proposal to the November meeting.

Financial Matters

External Audit by PKF-Littlejohn completed. In future years the submissions will be made online. Total for all bank accounts £41,507.45 at 31st August, checked by Cllr Hornsey against bank statements. The two RBS accounts were closed on 24th August and the balances transferred to the Unity Account. In April the Clerk booked a woodchipper for the churchyard project with National Tool Hire, trading as Mammoth Tool Hire. The company took a £250 deposit plus a charge for protective equipment (£9.95 + VAT) that was not supplied. The Clerk was told repeatedly that refund would be paid within next 10 days but still nothing returned. The Clerk will investigate and follow-up on options, including requesting a charge-back by the credit card company, or instigating County Court proceedings against the supplier.

Items from Councillors

Cllr Barrett requested that replacement of dog poo bag dispensers be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Dates of next meetings

Wednesdays 11th November, 13th January 2027, 10th March, 12th May. Annual Parish Meeting 28th April 2027.

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**

Book End

Bakewell and Eyam COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Book End, Bridge Street, Bakewell is a small secondhand charity bookshop supporting the work of Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport

We are open 7 days a week with morning and afternoon shifts available, no regular commitment is required - weekend help would be particularly appreciated.

For further information please telephone 01629 641920

www.bect.org.uk **Charity No: 1049389**

Village Meeting

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Wednesday 18th November 19:00
Great Longstone Village Hall

The steering committee have been very busy preparing the draft policies that will go into the Neighbourhood Plan.

A lot of work has gone into this phase, please make time to come and listen to the proposals and most importantly have a say in the next steps.

Your Village – Your Choice – Your Voice

LONGSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

WhatsApp Group

Scan this QR code on a phone or tablet to join the Longstone Community WhatsApp group (see UTE June 2026)

GL PARISH COUNCIL
Facebook Page
Search for and 'Like'
Great Longstone Community
Community Website
greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk

Church Lane Farm Milk

The talented artist from Sheffield, Nikki Whiston, has just painted the glass door into the Cox's milk and eggs emporium at Church Lane Farm with a beautiful farming scene, as well as giving their chalkboards a much needed refresh. It will help visitors figure out where the fresh milk and milkshakes are, just behind the door.

If you keep your eyes peeled around the farm, you might spot the gorgeous collie featured in the painting – hopefully, not driving, though!

New Landlords for the White Lion

Mike and Rabbie, from Rabbie's Noodle Hut in Wythenshawe, have signed a contract with Robinson's Brewery for the White Lion, and hope to pick up the keys around 10th November. They were in the process of moving the Noodle Hut to new premises, when sadly, estimates for the costs for converting it increased sharply, rendering the process uneconomic.

They'll be bringing some of their favourite dishes from the Noodle Hut, with new Thai dishes and plenty of British pub favourites for those who don't like spicy food, whether adults or children. Food is currently planned from 9.30am–9pm (final hours to be confirmed), and they're also planning a Christmas menu.

Robinsons are in the process of refurbishing the pub inside, with new tables, new chairs and a fresh new look. but Mike and Rabbie hope to open late November or early December. Keep your eyes peeled!

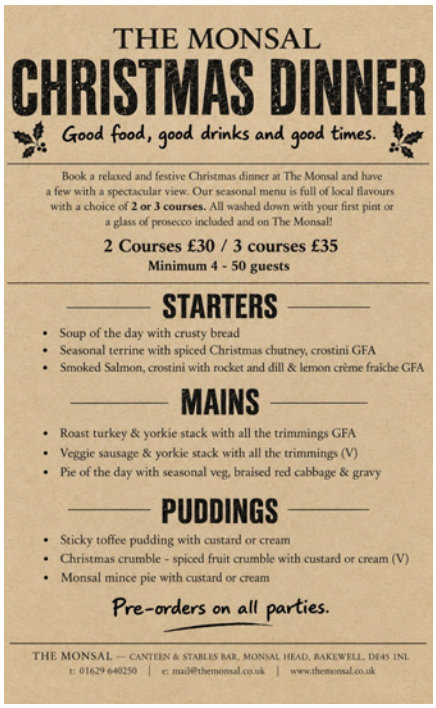
Pet and Harvest Service at St Giles

Andrew Roddis and George

Anna Dutch and Pepper

Jenny Atherton and Vanity

The pet and harvest celebration service at St Giles on 4th October was well attended by both the two-legged and their four-legged friends. Father Lionel Atherton, as usual, was a fount of information, explaining that you should never pick and eat blackberries after Michaelmas, September 29th, as when Satan, formerly known as Lucifer, was cast out of heaven by the archangel Michael, he landed in a blackberry bush and spat on and cursed them. Alison Waltho expounded on St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day it was, and why he would have wanted animals involved in the worship. Judy Dilks gave a fascinating account of the challenges farming life in Hassop, which you can read in full in this month's Farming Notes. Sue Walker then talked about her passion for butterflies, and the diversity of species on Longstone Edge. Heather and Will from the Village Shop had baked a splendid harvest loaf, which Father Lionel blessed, before Anna Dutch sang a Celtic blessing and everyone repaired to the Village Hall for a sumptuous shared feast.



Coffee Concert

The next coffee concert will be on Saturday 21st November, when the Wyns Tor Singers will perform at All Saints, Bakewell.

Wyns Tor Singers is a small, adult, mixed-gender chamber choir, based in Winster. They have a wide-ranging repertoire, from the beginnings of English choral music through a wide range of sacred, secular and folk music from around the world, to some of the wonderful music of modern choral composers.

Please come along and enjoy local talent at its best. The concert will begin at 11.15am and will be preceded by coffee and biscuits. Entry is free, but there will be a retiring collection, which will be donated to Zink – the Buxton-based charity, dedicated to helping those in need and assisting people back into work.

Dot Bushen

Christmas with all the Trimmings at the Village Shop

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

The Main Event

Yorkshire turkey
Grass-fed beef
Pigs in blankets
Pork, lamb and poultry
Don't forget the stuffing!
All the trimmings – potatoes, sprouts and red cabbage
Turkey orders by 1st December, other meat by the 8th

The Teatime Buffet

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

The Dessert

Homemade Christmas cake
Homemade Christmas pudding
Pavlovas, cheesecakes and chocolate log made to order
Deep filled mince pies
Lashings of Longley Farm cream

We can deliver at a time that suits you right up to 7pm Christmas Eve

Who needs a supermarket with the Village Shop on your doorstep?
You've tried the rest, now try the best!

Longstone Local History Group AGM

The AGM of the Longstone Local History Group was held in the Village Hall on 20th October, with 21 members present. Peter Donaldson announced that, having served on the committee for more than four years, he felt that it was time for him to resign from this role. In his place, Simon Headington was elected on to the committee, and André Smith was elected as Secretary.

After the business meeting, we welcomed our guest speaker, Dr Allan Hackett, whose talk, 'Food since the Second World War – from Rations to Ready Meals', was a fascinating insight into the changes in our eating habits over the past 80 years.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th November, when we shall have another guest speaker, Chris Milner, who is Area Ranger at the National Trust's Longshaw Estate.

Peter Donaldson

Upcoming Events at The Monsal

LEAP Apple Day at the Morris Family Farm

Last month saw the return of LEAP's annual Apple Day. The weather forecast was less than favourable, so we quickly put the gazebos up ready for the wet afternoon. As it turned out, we had no need to worry. The rain stopped within the first half an hour, the sun broke through and we were treated to a gorgeous afternoon of apple pressing.

It was great to see so many familiar faces as well as some new ones. Thank you to everyone who came to join in and donated their apples.

We produced a lot of juice on the day but, unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough for my latest experiment. So, we pressed some more apples the following weekend, and my first attempt at apple wine is happily fermenting away in our kitchen. I look forward to trying it when it's ready. I also look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Allen Morris

Tread Softly...

...contemplating, chatting and chuckling in creation.

This week, we were treated to a cuppa at our local café. A huge thank you to the kind anonymous person who treated us.

We sat outside in the sunshine and sang Happy Birthday to Ben, who was celebrating a big birthday.

Alison Waltho

Fancy a Share in the Bonsall Narrowboat?

It's coming up to 23 years since the Bonsall Boat Club was formed in 2003 and, in that time, the families who own a share in the boat have cruised most of the waterways of England and Wales. The group consists of thirteen families who live in Bonsall and other villages in Derbyshire.

We now have a two-week share available to purchase – there are 30 cruising weeks, which start in late March and finish in October each year. We have found that shared ownership is a very affordable way to get afloat on the rivers and canals. There are two costs involved: the cost of buying a share, which is refunded if the share is sold; and the non-refundable annual running costs (including the Canal and River Trust licence, insurance, servicing and any repairs). These are divided pro-rata according to each family's shareholding, and we have found that this is considerably cheaper than the cost of hiring a canal boat.

Burland is a 50-foot narrowboat, professionally fitted out in 1996 with six berths to accommodate larger families and/or guests. The bedroom has a double bed and the dining area and the sitting area, which has a stove, both convert into double beds. There is a kitchen (or galley), shower and separate toilet. It is fully equipped with all the pans, utensils, cutlery and crockery to prepare meals if families do not wish to eat out in the many waterside pubs and restaurants along the way. Central heating was installed in 2025.

When the boat leaves its winter mooring in March, each family picks it up wherever it happens to be on the agreed handover day. Everyone feels that Burland is their own boat when they are on board.

Overall, we see the shared boat as an excellent and affordable way to explore the waterways, especially for people who enjoy canal boating but might otherwise consider owning a narrowboat to be beyond their means.

If you would like more information, please get in touch with the group's Hon Secretary, Jane Smith, on **07762 053985** or email **churchgates@yahoo.co.uk**.

Jane Smith

Thornbridge Outdoors 20

Saturday 3rd October was the first Friends of Thornbridge Outdoors *Thornbridge Outdoors 20* – and what a day! 101 people started – 76 runners and 25 walkers – the sun shone, marshals cheered and 98 people completed the course. Well done to everyone who entered! The full results are online at **sportident.co.uk/results/FOTO/2026/FOTO**, but note that the early starters are mixed in with those who did the mass start at 10am.

We are excited to have course records – the fastest male runner (and first male veteran 40) was Colin Brearley of Holme Pierrepont Running Club, with a time of 2:47:20, and the fastest female runner (and first female veteran 40) was Caroline Brock of Steel City Striders, with a time of 2:51:46. The first male senior (age 23-39) was Freddie Goddard, with 2:51:25, and the first female senior Fran Cummins of Steel City Striders, on 3:18:57. The first male veteran 50 was Paul Turner of Totley AC, with 3:08:50, and the first female veteran 50 was Christine Howard of Matlock AC, with 3:26:14. Lastly, the first male veteran 60 was Mark Wilson, with 3:53:17.

Thank you to all the runners and walkers, who took a leap of faith and entered the first *Thornbridge Outdoors 20*. It was great to meet everyone and see you make the most of the day. The event wouldn't have been possible without the many volunteers (including FOTO trustees, Thornbridge Outdoors staff – and some of their parents, partners and friends, and Centre staff colleagues from Sheffield City Council), who kindly gave up their time to support the runners, walkers and FOTO. Tasks undertaken were many and varied including seeking permissions, baking cakes, branding coasters, staffing checkpoints and road crossings, marking the route, photography, sweeping the route, cheering at the finish, cooking the curry and the inevitable clearing up. A big thank you also goes out to Hazels Catering, who very kindly provided the curry. Finally, thank you to the various landowners whose land the route crossed, and to our kind sponsors for making the event possible – Buffalo Systems for providing the prizes, Foothills for sponsoring the race numbers, and Thornbridge Brewery for providing the beers for the finishers.

Next year, we look forward to seeing everyone for the next *Thornbridge Outdoors 20,* provisionally on Saturday 16th October 2027. Entries will go live on SI Entries in Spring 27 – please keep an eye on Facebook and Instagram for updates. We would really love to have more volunteers for the 2027 event. If you are able to volunteer, please email **friendsofthornbridgeoutdoors@gmail.com**. **Tim Ward**

A Call to Climate Action!

As a child, you'd find me fascinated by and interacting with nature everywhere I went. Whether that be observing frogs in our pond, catching Cinnabar Moth caterpillars from Ragwort plants in the East Coast dunes, chasing grasshoppers and lizards in France, or releasing house spiders caught in a not-oft-used dish in the pantry. I'd always be listening out and looking for a creature that I could inspect, identify and perhaps 'help'.

I spent my summers watching ants (I named every one Harry!) or bees working together collectively. The survival of their colony, and ultimately their species, was their common goal. The natural world has always been my teacher and a close friend to me.

Like everyone else, I've been hearing talk of 'climate change' for 20 years. We've been told to recycle more, use less, buy an electric car, etc etc. However, never before have I seen such a stark amount of evidence for the need to make coordinated, drastic change as I did when I watched The People's Emergency Briefing (PEB).

The PEB is a coordinated call for action presented as a documentary, which compiles scientific evidence and expert assessments first presented during a landmark National Emergency Briefing held in Westminster in November 2025. It is being viewed, shared, and discussed in local screenings across the country as it is designed to raise awareness about the urgency of the climate and nature crisis, as well as encourage people to contact their MP to force the government to face up to and take action against the growing challenge.

Whilst I may not be alone in my love and regard for the natural world, I do appreciate that not everyone is as fascinated by it as I am. They perhaps don't value or realise it's beauty and intricacies. Nature has always been there for all of us, whether we realised it or not.

In our busy lives, filled with traffic, screens, work, families, commitments, it's all too easy to lose our connection with the natural world. We are all guilty of taking it for granted. The sheets we put on our bedding. The coffee or tea we sip to start our day. The rubber in our tyres. The tech that we rely on in our hand, car or office. The medicines we take. Whether something is life-sustaining or a luxury, it wouldn't exist without the natural world to provide material, fuel, nutrients, or decomposition. Recognising just how dependent we humans are on the natural world can be pretty mind-blowing, largely because we've become so disconnected from it.

As we see the change in our climate and seasons, as well as the increase in natural disasters and extreme weather events, we know that this isn't what we remember from even just 20 years ago. Increasingly, there are regular flash floods, wildfires, droughts, storms, and disease outbreaks. With warmer temperatures and changing weather patterns, the UK is more hospitable to pathogens and their carriers, such as ticks and mosquitos – some of nature's mini beasts that even I struggle to love!

It's not alarmist to say that we all need to do what we can to make the natural world our number one priority. It's critical for our food supply, our national security, and our health. We must prevent what further instability we can, and prepare for and manage what we can't.

But what can I do? I hear you ask. As individuals, we are rather helpless and ineffective, but as a coordinated group pulling in the same direction, we can make a genuine positive change. Think back to the ants and the bees, who all work as a team, as a colony. To learn more of what you can do, please come along to the Great Longstone showing of the People's Emergency Briefing in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st November from 2pm. There will be opportunity for discussion after the screening. Free tickets and further details are available online from **tickettailor.com/events/thethinkingproject/2416635**

Regardless of whether someone believes the cause of changing weather patterns, increased disease outbreaks, or extreme weather events are human-caused/related, or part of a natural cycle, I think that we can all agree that these things are changing, and rapidly. Whether you're concerned about immigration, the cost of living, your insurance costs, AI, or diseases, you should also be concerned about climate change as it has a direct impact on all of the above.

We really hope that you can join us to watch this.

Milly Holdsworth

The People's Emergency Briefing

Saturday 21 November 2026
2.30 – 5pm

Great Longstone Village Hall

Ten leading UK climate and nature scientists briefed politicians and business leaders at Westminster last November on what the crisis means for our health, food, security and economy – and what can be done about it. This 50-minute film brings that briefing to life, with reactions from the public and familiar faces including Jennifer Saunders and Deborah Meaden.

Followed by a community discussion about what this means for Great Longstone and how we can support each other.

Free entry – booking essential

Limited spaces

Scan to book your free ticket, or visit:
tickettailor.com/events/thethinkingproject/2416635

Musings on Types of Goverment

My travels recently have brought me in to contact with different types of government. The Isle of Man had a General Election in September, in which all 24 Members of the House of Keys (MHKs) were elected. There are 12 constituencies in the Isle of Man, and each returns two representatives. There is not a strong party system in the Isle of Man, and most candidates stand as independents. We watched a hustings for the Ramsey constituency, and it was hard to distinguish between the candidates, as by the time they each answered a question about, for example, what to do about access to banking services in Ramsey, the last ones to answer were just agreeing with what had been said already.

Of course, this was a welcome contrast to the highly polarised discussions we see on UK political panel shows, where nobody agrees with anything the 'other side' has said. But as our B&B hosts said, the problem with having so many independent candidates is that there's no clear choice of policy to vote on. A single member of the House of Keys is unable to do much, and so the electorate doesn't have the chance to set the strategic direction of the Isle of Man. The Chief Minister (the equivalent of our Prime Minister) is chosen from and by the 24 MHKs, who may know very little about each other, particularly as this year's election produced 15 new MHKs.

On a very different scale, the European Parliament covers 27 member states. I spent a few hours exploring the Parliamentarium, the European Parliament's visitor centre in Brussels. The displays gave a real sense of the immense challenges that Europe had faced in the first two-thirds of the 20th century, and the imagination and ambition shown by the people who imagined that Europe could be united. The European Parliament does have parties, and national members are spread out among them. It seems almost impossible that something so big as the European Union can work, but it does, and I benefitted from that as I travelled by sleeper train from Brussels to Milan, without having to stop at borders (just as well, as I was asleep for most of it). I did, of course, have to go through passport control at St Pancras, when I boarded the Eurostar.

Large-scale governmental organisations only work if local information is accurate and passed on to the right places. I've no idea how that works in Europe, but in the UK, this was about to be changed by the Local Government Reorganisation, which would have changed our two-tier council system into one unitary authority, when in September, the Government announced the process had been paused. So, our upcoming elections in May 2027 will be for the existing Derbyshire Dales District Council wards, as well as for GLPC.

Whatever council systems works above them, Parish Councils, and Parish Meetings, remain an important way for other organisations, like the Peak Park, and other government bodies, like the District or County Council, or EMCCA (the East Midlands Combined County Authority), to understand what communities want and need.

We face an increasingly uncertain future, and one way we can respond is to pay attention to the bodies and structures that govern our lives locally. The Parish Council needs more councillors – could you be one? Will you make sure you vote in the District (and Parish) Council elections in May?

Georgina Blair

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Posh Pin Cushions

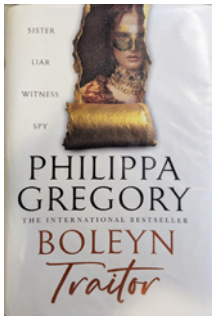
On 17th September, Longstone Ladies held a craft workshop in the Village Hall. Under the guidance of Josie Pinder, fifteen members enjoyed a creative evening making Posh Pin Cushions. Pretty materials were chosen from a selection provided by Josie to compliment the variety of tea cups and mugs that members had sourced for this event. Our thanks to Josie for leading this fun session. **Sandra Taylor**

Sagas and Romance at The Crispin

In October, twenty members of Longstone Ladies gathered at The Crispin and were treated to a very entertaining account of 'Life as an Author' by Margaret Dickinson. Margaret is a best-selling author celebrated for her captivating historical romance novels. Her talk was followed by a very enthusiastic question and answer session. A good selection of her books were sold, each one signed with a personal message. After the event, Margaret and her husband Dennis enjoyed a well-deserved Crispin scampi and chips!

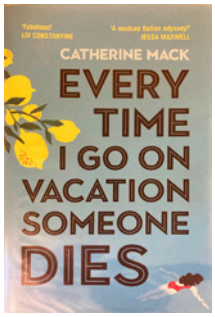
Pauline Harrison

Bakewell Library Recommends...



Boleyn Traitor by Philippa Gregory. Jane Boleyn watches from the shadows of the Tudor court, where nothing is more powerful than a secret. And power rests on the edge of a tyrant king's sword. She wears many masks – loving wife, devoted sister, and obedient spy. It's what a woman must do to survive. The only weapon she has is her voice. They say Jane's whispers sealed the fate of two queens. They called her a liar and a traitor. But the truth is far more dangerous.

Jane is portrayed as a complex, intelligent, and ambitious character. Gregory's writing draws the reader into both Jane's story and the rich setting of the Tudor court. Jane's voice is compelling, and I developed a great deal of sympathy for her motives throughout the novel. Although she was a spy, her actions were driven by understandable reasons. Having read all of Philippa Gregory's novels, I believe this book stands alongside the others in the series as an excellent portrayal of the Tudor court from a fresh female perspective. I was completely absorbed from beginning to end. **Rating 5/5**



Every Time I Go On Vacation Someone Dies by Catherine Mack. Eleanor Dash, author of the Vacation Mysteries series, is on a book tour on the gorgeous Amalfi Coast when she finds life imitating art as her ex-boyfriend is targeted by a killer. Eleanor's sleuthing skills are about to be put to the ultimate test as, among the literary rivals, rabid fans, a crazed stalker and former flame Oliver, suspicions on tour are flying faster than paperbacks off a bestseller shelf. But who is really trying to get away with murder?

I thought this novel was great fun. It's a mystery about the author of a mystery novel who finds herself investigating a mystery of her own. The plot is full of twists, turns, and laugh-out-loud moments. I was convinced I'd guessed the murderer... I was wrong. I loved the use of footnotes throughout, though some readers might find them a little distracting. This is the first book in Mack's 'cozy crime' series, and I can't wait to read the next. **Rating 4/5**

The Little Wartime Library by Kate Thompson. London, 1944. Clara Button is no ordinary librarian. While the world remains at war, in East London, Clara has created the country's only underground library, built over the tracks in the disused Bethnal Green tube station. Down here, a secret community thrives: with thousands of bunk beds, a nursery, a cafe and a theatre offering shelter, solace and escape from the bombs that fall above. Along with her glamorous best friend and library assistant, Ruby Munroe, Clara ensures the library is the beating heart of life underground. But as the war drags on, the women's determination to remain strong in the face of adversity is tested to the limits when it seems it may come at the price of keeping those closest to them alive.

I loved this book with its roots in history, the relatable characters and the ever-changing circumstances that they faced during the war. I loved all the gutsy women, men and children who helped each other and the lives they lived in and around the underground library. The two young women, Clara and Ruby, were wonderful characters. I loved their stories and the optimism with which they lived through the worst of times, drawing on friendships and love when it was most needed.

Throughout the book, the author has included inspirational quotes from library staff and colleagues over the decades about the importance of libraries, books and information in communities and for everyone. **Rating 5/5**

Fiona Harrison and her New Recruits

I had some locals join me on the ice last Sunday for their very first short-track speed skating session at Ice Sheffield.

Richard Cox and his son Stephan, from Great Longstone, had to adapt quickly – there are no sides to hold onto, and in short track boots, getting to grips with balance is a little more challenging.

The chaps did so well, and by the end of the hour, they were much more confident and even had enough energy left to try some off-ice leg strengthening drills. Great work!

Fiona Harrison

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

Check website or Facebook for latest details and to book a table

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Surprising Shows in Surprising Places

The Village Hall will be hosting our 29th Live and Local show on 20th November – Graffiti Classics – The Comedy Quartet *(see poster on right)*.

In 2010, the Village Hall became involved with Live and Local. The first event was booked and sold out, with 67 people packed in to see Ro Toro in Concert, an Estonian folk group featuring two bagpipers, a modern jazz saxophonist, a rock guitarist and a percussionist who played on plastic washing bowls! The Village Hall Committee ran a bar, took ticket money, donated prizes and ran the interval raffle, and profit went to the Village Hall Charity.

Since that time, there has been such a variety of shows, including plays, dance and music. The performers come early to set up and are always treated to Jane Littlefield's delicious meals and desserts, which are greatly appreciated!

Live and Local is a not-for-profit arts organisation working with a network of voluntary groups across Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland and Leicestershire. They provide a range of support for arts activities that keep people in touch with their communities and enhance their quality of life. They provide us with an annual menu, which contains information about a wide range of high-quality shows to suit all audiences and made especially for community venues. They are able to subsidise the cost of our performances using funding provided from our local authorities and Arts Council England.

We look forward to seeing you on 20th November!

Julia Morgans and Jane Littlefield

LIVE & LOCAL

Graffiti Classics – The Comedy String Quartet

Fri 20 Nov 7:30PM - 90 mins + optional 20 mins interval

16 strings. 8 dancing feet. 4 unforgettable voices. 1 explosive musical comedy experience!

Get ready for Graffiti Classics - the world's most outrageous comedy string quartet, where classical music meets comedy, dance and pure entertainment.

Forget everything you thought you knew about a string quartet. These four virtuosos don't sit politely on stage - they sing, dance, joke and play their way through a whirlwind show packed with jaw-dropping musicianship and infectious energy.

From Beethoven to Elvis, opera to bluegrass, gypsy folk to stand-up comedy, Graffiti Classics smash musical boundaries with a riotous mix of styles, dazzling performances and plenty of cheeky audience interaction.
Expect a full-throttle celebration of music, laughter and fun!
A firm favourite with Live & Local audiences, Graffiti Classics create an instant connection with everyone they meet. This uplifting, high-energy show promises to leave you laughing, amazed and with a song in your heart.

Come for the music. Stay for the mayhem. Leave with a smile.

"A cabaret that will leave you wanting more." - Daily Mail *"A simply wonderful show."* – The Times "

£14 - book tickets online leap.sumupstore.com Scan the QR Code

Or contact LEAP – email4leap@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Bakewell

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Quiz Night

Raising funds for our
Small Grants Fund and Bakewell Repair Cafe

MEDWAY CENTRE,
NEW STREET, BAKEWELL

Friday, 13th November 2026

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Bar and Buffet provided Raffle

QUIZ MASTER: John Kelcey assisted by Sue

Teams of four. Good prizes

Tickets priced at £12 per person

from David Rawson, 812110, the Medway Centre or book your team with any Bakewell Rotarian

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ALDI

Rotary Club of Bakewell

Bakewell Repair Café

Saturday, 28th Nov | 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

Anyone for Snooker?

You may not know that we have a full-sized snooker table within the Village Hall. The snooker table is a village asset available to people within the village and their guests. It is looked after by the Village Hall committee and represented on the committee by the snooker club chairman, myself.

Villagers and their guests can use the table at any time, as long as the hall has not been completely booked out – please check the calendar, which shows when a booking for the hall is available, on the Great Longstone Village Hall website at **greatlongstone-pc.gov.uk/village-hall-information**.

Anyone from the village can join the club by paying the annual fee of £10 and providing their name, address, email address, and phone number. The only other cost is the light above the table while playing. There is a meter for the light, which takes 20p pieces. The light lasts about 15 minutes, so a game may take several coins, depending how good you are at potting balls.

We have a WhatsApp group open to club members, which can be used to arrange games.

We are always looking for new members, so if you fancy a game, just give me a call on **07544 867233** or drop me an email to **KCLongstone@outlook.com**. **Kevin Crawford**

WINTER 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

- *Non-residents may join if space and pay the full cost.*
- *All events are in Great Longstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated.*

DATE	EVENT INFORMATION	Charge
Sun 1st Nov. **1 pm – 4 pm**	**Make an Embossed Pewter Candle Cuff** We are delighted to welcome Caroline Buchwald back for another pre-Christmas pewter embossing afternoon. No experience necessary.	**£10** Email or book online
Sat 14th Nov. **12pm – 3 pm**	**Make a Wall Plaque Workshop** Using an environmentally friendly concrete, Jane Littlefield will show you how to create a unique plaque. Bring along things to embellish it like old keys, jewellery and crockery!	**£5** Email or book SOLD OUT
Wed 18th Nov. **10am – 4pm**	**Sew an Advent Calendar with Marge The Tweed Queen** Come along and sew an Advent Calendar that can be used again and again!	**£10** Email or book online
Fri 20th Nov. **7.30pm**	**Live and Local - Graffiti Classics – The Comedy String Quartet** 16 strings, 8 dancing feet, 4 voices with one aim - to make classical music wickedly funny and exhilarating. A hilarious all-singing, all-dancing musical comedy cabaret show. *"A simply wonderful show"* The Times	**£14** Email or book online
Wed 2nd Dec **10am – 12pm**	**Men's Cooking Group** A Christmas themed cooking morning.	**Free** Email to book.
Sun 13th Dec **2pm – 4pm**	**Christmas Craft Afternoon** Join us for another packed afternoon of crafting and creativity!	**Free** Email to book.
16th Nov. **14th Dec.**	**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**
25th Nov, **16th Dec**	**Book Swap Café - last Wednesday of every month 2 pm— 4 pm** Bring a couple of books to swap and stay for a chat and enjoy a tea or coffee, and a slice of delicious homemade cake.	
Film Club **Thu 26th Nov.** **7.30 p.m.**	**The Sheep Detectives-** the 'ovine' theme continues! Hugh Jackman is shepherd George dedicated to raising sheep for their wool, not their meat – which is not exactly the attitude of the local agribusiness types who have designs on his land. A feelgood crime caper.	**£5** On the door
To join our mailing list please email us - email4leap@gmail.com		

Men's Cookery Group

The band of brothers clutching their Green Thai Curries

The raw ingredients - lemon grass, basil, ginger, coriander...

The Men's Cookery Group has been one of LEAP's great successes. From the first tentative session in March 2024, when four men turned up to learn how to make a hearty soup and cheese scones, it has grown to a loyal and enthusiastic band, ten to twelve of whom attend every time. On 14th October, they learnt how to make a Thai green curry with aromatic rice from scratch, starting off making the curry paste, a step most home cooks would skip by just using a ready-made supermarket jar or sachet.

Over the past two and a half years, they've scaled the heights of choux pastry and canapé making, as well as exploring Chinese and Indian cuisines. It wasn't long before the group felt confident enough to showcase their skills, with a highly successful Indian curry evening on 19th October 2025. This was held in the Village Hall with their partners and instructors (Annie Davey and Julia Morgans), and raised nearly £400 for LEAP funds.

There was no hesitation when an encore was proposed! Having learnt how to make Frank Hammond's finger-licking-good lasagne last year, it was decided to hold an Italian-themed evening on 15th June. Once again, it was a tremendous success, raising a similar amount for LEAP funds. Martin Pinder welcomed everyone with a mean Aperol spritz, washed down by Terry Wales' bruschettas. Jeremy Cotterill and Andy Davis put together an Italian music playlist, as well as providing the stand-up entertainment between courses with an Italian-themed quiz, while the pasta and risottos were being finished off. Amongst the desserts were a delicious lemon ice cream made by the Cadenheads, whose recipe appeared in UTE's August edition.

Farewell from Brenda Jackson

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, I decided that the time is right for me to move to be nearer my family and also to learn what retirement really means! I am looking forward to beginning a new chapter, but there's also sadness in leaving the area and the lovely people who live here. Thank you for the kindness and support you have shown me as an Associate Priest. I hope to be popping back from time to time, and will look out for events such as the Open Gardens and the Flower Festival, knowing that I will now have the time to enjoy a cuppa and second piece of homemade cake at the Village Hall!

Despite the long vacancy, St Giles and the Church of the Good Shepherd continue to thrive, but we are all hoping and praying that the interregnum may end soon and that a new Priest-in-Charge will be appointed. The next stage of the selection process will be taking place after this edition of *Under The Edge* has gone to press, but whatever the outcome, it may take a little while before any announcement can be made. Whoever God brings to minister in the benefice will be kept very busy with seven churches under their care, but I know you will offer them a very warm welcome and your ongoing support.

May you be richly blessed, With love and prayers,

Rev Brenda Jackson

Dear Friends,

Shadows, Light, and the Promise of Peace

November brings a distinct and thoughtful mood to our countryside. Across our Benefice, the last bright leaves drift from the trees, morning frosts silver the pastures, and dusk falls earlier each afternoon. The quiet beauty of late autumn invites us to slow our pace and reflect. It is a season when the landscape itself seems to hold its breath, creating space for memory, gratitude, and quiet contemplation.

In our churches and around our local war memorials, November calls us together for Remembrance. We honour those who served and sacrificed, recalling the devastating toll of conflict on past generations and on our own small Derbyshire villages. Yet, as we listen to thesolemn silence and the familiar words of memory, our thoughts naturally turn toward the wider world today.

It can feel deeply heart-wrenching to watch contemporary news. We witness anew man's inhumanity to man – raging conflicts, broken lives, and the tragic suffering of innocent people across the globe. In moments like these, the weight of human hostility can leave us feeling weary and helpless, questioning how the world can repeat the errors of the past and wondering where hope is to be found amid such darkness.

Yet Christian faith does not ask us to turn a blind eye to the world's pain. Instead, it offers a steady beacon when shadows lengthen. The Gospel of John reminds us of a fundamental truth, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5). Light does not deny that darkness exists; rather, it assures us that darkness never gets the final word.

The Scriptures consistently point us toward a vision where hostility gives way to divine reconciliation. The prophet Isaiah looked forward to a day when nations 'shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore' (Isaiah 2:4). This is not a naive dream, but God's ultimate promise for creation – a reminder that peace is God's deepest desire for our world.

While we may feel powerless to resolve far-off wars, our Christian calling is to embody that peace right where we are. Peace begins in small, deliberate daily choices: choosing gentleness over harshness, forgiveness over bitterness, and community over division. Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans, 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good' (Romans 12:21).

Every time we offer comfort to a grieving neighbour, welcome a stranger, or hold a suffering world in heartfelt prayer, we become active instruments of Christ's light. As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9).

As the days shorten and winter draws near, let us hold fast to both memory and hope. We honour those who went before us not simply by looking back, but by committing ourselves to the active work of peace, mercy, and compassion today. In remembering their struggle and sacrifice, we give thanks to God for the quiet encouragement their legacy offers – especially when we feel anxious about the state of our world and tempted to lose heart. Their example reminds us that the torch of justice and freedom is now ours to carry and pass on faithfully to each generation. As the old proverb reminds us, 'It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.' May we be people who light candles of hope in our homes, our villages, and our world this November.

With blessings,
David Hardman,
Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water

St. Giles' Churchwarden Contact Details

Frank Hammond
07935 873930
cubanheel26@btinternet.com

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

Matlock Food Bank

If you would like to make a donation, did you know that there is a reception point in St. Giles at the back of the church? This is regularly sent to Matlock as the donations fill up.

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

Services in November

+R-Rowsley

1st November – All Saints Day
9am Eucharist (Wardlow)
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)
4pm Service of Light (St Giles)

8th November – Remembrance Sunday
9am Service (Wardlow)
10.45am Service at War Memorial followed by service in St Giles
4pm Benefice Evensong (St Giles)

15th November – 2nd before Advent
10.30am Eucharist (St Giles)

22nd November – Christ the King
10.30am Morning Worship (St Giles) **(+R)**
6pm Benefice Evensong (Bakewell)

29th November – Advent Sunday
10.30am Benefice Eucharist (Bakewell)

November in the Garden

Lawns: Continue aeration, make final cut and apply autumn fertiliser. Bring in mowing machines for overhaul before storing for winter.
Roses: Plant out new roses using planting mixture of bone meal and peat or other humus forming material. Stake standard roses with a stout stake and secure near the head of the rose.
Herbaceous plants: Clean up established borders, plant tops can be composted if reduced. New plants may still be planted in mild weather. Finish digging new borders and beds for winter weathering.
Dahlias: Examine stored tubers, cut away portions of tubers that have rotted and dust cuts with sulphur.
Gladioli: Clean lifted corms and store for winter.
Trees and shrubs: Continue planting deciduous trees and shrubs in fine weather.
Bulbs: Complete planting tulips and hyacinths. Examine pots and bowls of bulbs and move any with shoots inside, placing them in cool conditions not exceeding 10°C (50°F). Give sufficient water; paper white and soleil d'or narcissi can be taken straight into warmer conditions.
Fruit: Start winter pruning established trees, but do not prune plums, cherries, damsons, peaches and nectarines. Check that ties are not cutting into bark. Cut out cankers and control woolly aphids with insecticide. Inspect stored fruit and ripen pears at room temperature.
Vegetables: Continue digging vacant patches for winter weathering.
General tasks: Lift begonias, geraniums and fuchsias and bring inside. Dig vacant ground and leave it rough for frost to break it down. Dress heavy ground with lime and clean up fallen leaves to stack for leaf mould.

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Valerie Murdin's Apple and Raisin Cake

The best thing about going on a long walk is the anticipation of what you can feast on at the end of it, to replenish all those calories you've burnt off!

8 oz apples (peeled and cored)
8 oz raisins
¼ pint milk
zest of 1 lemon
2 tsp mixed spice
6 oz soft brown sugar
12 oz self-raising flour
1 egg
6 oz butter
2 oz demerara sugar

Walkers on the Mild Side tread softly every Wednesday, knowing that their reward will be a slice of one of Valerie Murdin's delicious cakes, whether baked with her own fair hands, or by walk leader Alison Waltho. This apple and raisin version is one of their favourites.

Melt the butter in a small pan and let it cool while you chop up the apples into small chunks. Mix the apple with the raisins in a bowl, and then pour the milk over them. Grate the rind of the lemon into another bowl, and mix with the self-raising flour, mixed spice, and soft brown sugar. Beat in the melted butter and the egg, before adding the apple, raisin and milk from the other bowl, mixing in well.

Pour the mixture into a lined 2 lb loaf tin, and sprinkle the demerara sugar over the top. Bake at 160°C for 1-1¼ hours. Take the cake out of the tin and cool on a rack, while you go for a good walk to whet your appetite!

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What's On

Tuesdays - Art Group, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesdays from 10th November - Knit and Natter, Quackers Café 10am (page 3)
Wednesdays - Tread Softly, a Walk on the Mild Side, St Giles' Lychgate 10am (page 12)
Thursdays - Knit, Stitch and Natter, GL Village Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fridays - Whist Group, GL Village Hall 7pm, £2.50
1st November - LEAP Make a Candle Snuff, GL Village Hall, 1-4pm (page 19)
4th November - WI talk *Reignite your Energy*, GL Village Hall, 7.30pm (page 3)
11th November - GL Parish Council meeting, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 9)
13th November - Rotary Quiz Night, Medway Centre Bakewell, 7pm (page 18)
17th November - LLHG talk Chris Milner, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 11)
18th November - Neighbourhood Plan Update, GL Village Hall, 7pm (page 9)
20th November -Live & Local *Graffiti Classics*, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 18) £14
21st November - Coffee Concert *Wyns Tor Singers*, All Saints Bakewell, 11.15am (page 11)
21st November - People's Emergency Briefing, GL Village Hall 2.30-5pm (page 14)
28th November - Repair Cafe, Methodist Church Hall Bakewell, 10am-12 (page 18)
28th November - *Jester* live Rock and Punk, The Monsal, 8pm (page 11)
25th November - LEAP Book Swap Café, GL Village Hall, 2-4pm (page 19)
26th November - Film Club, *The Sheep Detectives*, GL Village Hall 7.30pm (page 19) £5

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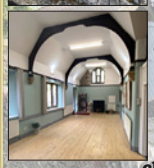

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We do not close for lunch

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

Whitworth Hospital Opening Times:
A&E (Minor Injuries Unit): 8am - 8pm
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For medical advice when the surgery is closed, phone 111

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

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Baslow Health Centre

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

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Shepherds' Delight Over Great Longstone

This colourful sunset was captured on 4th October in Great Longstone

A Note From The Editor

Thank you to everyone who submits material for publication and especially our regular contributors. Enquiries and submissions should be sent to:

editor@undertheedge.net

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

Wednesday 18th November

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.

Subscriptions are available - contact **subscriptions@undertheedge.net**

Correspondence address for those without access to email:

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All back issues available on our website

www.undertheedge.net