

UNDER THE EDGE

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

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Wet weather fails to dampen spirit of Crispin walkers

Crispin/Thornhill charity walk day - almost £2000 raised



The charity walkers (morning clan) gather outside the Crispin

The day (Saturday Oct 24th) began, disappointingly, with grey skies, rolling mist and light rain falling steadily over Great Longstone - hardly ideal conditions for a charity walk and the inclement weather surely had a negative effect on the number of participants for the Crispin organised event, this year in aid of Thornhill House, the nursing and residential home in the village.

Nonetheless, around 30 hardy souls (and 2 dogs) turned up for the start of the longer of the day's walks; the 10 and the 6 milers. Later in the day, 14 walkers headed off in pouring rain towards Rowland for the 2 mile course.

At 10.30, the morning walks began with 23 individuals (including Penny Edwards of Thornhill House) choosing to take part in the longer of the two options. This route followed Moor Road as far as the turn for Dale Farm and then took the track up towards Chertpit Lane before crossing a stile to skirt the western flank of Longstone

Moor. As we climbed, however, the mist thickened and visibility dropped to just a few metres.

So, I decided that I needed to hold back and ensure that those already behind didn't get lost as conditions were deteriorating rapidly. Once onto Longstone Moor itself, visibility dropped even further and I waited until all walkers were safely directed onto the route proper at an 'easy to miss' junction of paths. Descending towards Wardlow, the mist thankfully began to clear, good visibility was restored and I strode off after the groups ahead, confident that the back-markers would have no further navigational difficulties given that they were armed with both a clearly marked map and detailed instructions.

As the rain continued to fall I made my way, carefully, down into Cressbrook Dale followed by a steady climb up Tansley Dale and across the delightful field paths into the village of Litton.

The skies darkened further so I decided to press on into Tideswell Dale eventually reaching Litton Mill where Tim Biddlecombe had been strategically posted to warn walkers of the dangers of choosing the high-level, 'alpine' path above this stretch on such a miserable, damp day.

Sensibly, everyone opted for the easy-walking, riverside path down to Water-cum-jolly-Dale before the short climb onto the Monsal Trail, up to Monsal Head and back, via Little Longstone, to the rejuvenating liquid refreshments and pie & peas available at the Crispin. With most walkers now returned from the day's duties, even more funds were raised by way of a raffle of donated prizes.

This year's winners of the most money raised through Sponsorship were Bob and Esther Stewart with a remarkable £500+ total. Last year's winner, Pig Rowlinson (a pure white, dog-like creature who lodges at the pub), was unavailable for comment!

Walking times (10 miles) ranged from 3 hours 15 minutes to 5 hours, participant ages from 10 years (Richard Hollins) to 71 (Ted Fraser-Smith) and everyone got completely soaked into the bargain!

Thankfully, it was all in a good cause and Crispin hosts Paul and Joanne Rowlinson offer their thanks

Continued overleaf...



Cheque for £2000 being presented at Thornhill House

and appreciation to the generosity of all who donated raffle prizes and to the following individuals who helped make the day possible and successful: Neil Stephenson (marshalling duties), Steve and Jill Glossop (graphic design/ advertising posters), Dave Hellings (road-safety posters), Pam Edwards and Joyce Poulter (signing-in), walk leaders, Mike Cummins, John Poulter and Jean Gledhill (assisted by Lydia Rowlinson), Tim Biddlecombe (photographs and stewarding), Tracey Biddlecombe (emergency waitressing duties) and Greg Saunders (affle compere and local stand-up).

Finally, the biggest thanks go, of course, to the spirited walkers who braved the elements in order to do their bit in supporting a worthwhile, local community cause - not forgetting those who couldn't make the day itself but who contributed nevertheless. Good effort guys, see you next year?!

P.S. We want YOUR ideas for 2010. Who or what would you like to see benefit from a financial boost courtesy of the charity walk next year? It must be a local cause but other than that there are no conditions, so please let us know! All ideas considered - please email mikecummins@clara.co.uk or call Crispin landlord Paul on 01629 640 237.

Mike Cummins



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Success for Local Dressage Rider



Robert Waine (21), talented Dressage Rider, from Little Longstone has recently been selected by the British Equestrian Federation to join the World Class Foundation Squad, funded by the National Lottery through UK Sport, a programme specifically aimed at up and coming talented young riders that show the potential to secure medals for Great Britain now and in the future.

Through this programme Robert will receive coaching from world class trainers as well as access to the professional support network for top athletes including Vets, Nutritionists, Sports Psychologists and Physiotherapists.

Robert started his riding career with the successful local dressage trainer Sonia Webster, to whom he credits his solid foundational skills. This allowed Robert to move forward and get a riders position at the Buckinghamshire based Active Equestrian, which is owned and run by Olympic and European Bronze medallist Nicola McGivern.

For the last 18 months Robert has been working with Nicola on a daily basis to bring on her youngsters and to compete her more established horses. Recent successes include qualifying the talented 4 year old Active S Express for the Dressage Deluxe National Dressage Championships where S Express went on to become the 3rd best 4 year old in the country!

Through his close work with Nicola at Active Equestrian Robert has gained a vast amount of experience. This means that he has not only been able to improve his own riding skills but has also increased his knowledge in all aspects surrounding the care & development of elite competition horses. Robert is now passing on his knowledge to others by teaching not only in the local area but also at clinics throughout the South of England.

For more info on Active Equestrian visit their website on www.activeequestrian.com or for enquiries about training from Robert don't hesitate to contact him on: waine_robert@yahoo.co.uk.



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Local School Children Survive Encounter with Lathkill Minibeasts

A Longstone Primary School trip as told by two intrepid explorers...

"At Lathkill Dale we did loads of exciting things that were really good. First we went down to where the river was and talked about what habitats there were and we were talking about mines and we found lots of them. We even went down one that had been blocked off. After we had done that we went down to a damp place where we studied the buds on the trees to work out what type of tree we'd found: ash, elder and sycamore. Then we went on to the minibeasts. We were given some pots and a spoon. The pot's lid had a magnifying glass in it so that we could see the minibeasts. I found a slug and a big scary spider and it was very big. Although the ground was still wet we did go and see the main entrance to the mine, however it was blocked off with metal bars so we couldn't get in. When we went to lunch it started to rain so we were quite lucky. After lunch we went to do the clay and I was really excited, because I have never done it before. We drew the models first, and then did it. I did an ant which was quite hard and I found the legs quite hard especially. It was a fun school trip and I would like to go again."

Edward Davies

"Hurray! The first school trip this year! I wondered what it was going to be like. No tests! Yes! And no school dinners, whoopee! When we got on to the coach, I sat next to Amelia. We chatted about what we wanted to be when we were older. On the coach we were like year one children, chattering

happily and clutching our lunch in our rucksacks as we bumped along.

As soon as we got there, we set off on our expedition. I found, on our minibeast hunt, three arachnids; one spider and two mites. The arachnids were hiding under heavy stones so that they could go to sleep. Florence and Hannah found a ladybird. We moved farther along the path, then we saw the main entrance to the disused mines where quarrymen went in to work each morning except weekends, a long time ago.

It wasn't long before I was feeling quite peckish and wishing that I had brought my chocolate bar but I had left it in my bag. On the other hand I was thinking how pretty the colours were of the falling leaves. We stamped back hungrily to the coach.

Lunchtime at last. It was super duper. Mum had packed tomato soup, cheese sandwiches, caramel chocolate bar and the wonderful fruit pastilles. I gobbled it all up in two seconds flat because I was starving.

After lunch I felt better. In fact it was more interesting because I like to potter. First we drew a picture of a beetle. After that we placed a leaf, which we had collected earlier, on some clay. We used a needle with a wooden handle to scrape out the outside of the leaf and pulled the other bit off. Then we put the lacy shape of the leaf on a wooden block and pulled the proper leaf off. In the clay there were the patterns of the veins. Next, with the other bit of the clay, we made a minibeast and stuck it on the clay leaf. That was it because it had to go inside the kiln at about 10,000°C. It was time to go home. We had a great day."

Wendy's Woofie Walk



Gordon, Joanne, Mandy and all the family would like to send a special thankyou to all who joined the walk on 4th October and those who made donations towards the Helen's Trust charity. So far we have raised a staggering £2,009.50 this year.

If you would still like to donate, it's not too late; please send any contributions to Gordon Bowering, Chert Cottage, Great Longstone and make cheques payable to 'Helen's Trust'.

Once again, many, many huge thanks.

Joanne Fawcett



Bonfire on 7th November

A big thank you to everyone who dragged themselves from Strictly Come Dancing and the X Factor to attend the bonfire on Cox's land on a pleasant Saturday evening.

A total of £222.50 was raised on the night and a cheque was recently given to Ashgate Hospice.

Thank you to everyone who donated.

Vic Holmes

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A Boost to Outside Play at Longstone Pre-School



How lucky we are to have increased our outside area for the pre-school children, with the refurbishment of the entrance alley way into a great new hard court play area. It really does look smart.

The old, deteriorated surface has been removed and new tarmac, picket fencing and swing gates have been installed by Terry Cox and his men. Mark Garrett has provided us with the ironmongery again.

As the play area is enclosed, it is great to be able to have the 'Old School' door open allowing some fresh air and sunlight in and some energetic youngsters and hot air out! The area has already been used for water and sand play, chalking, painting and den building.

The other important benefit is letting mum's, dad's, grandparents or carers with push chairs, get up to the front door without having to go up through the school entrance road as the old metal 'squeezer' has had it's day and has been replaced by a metal

gate. It's also useful when a young tear-away runs downhill towards the road on the way home, as now they are contained by the gate rather than having the opportunity to wriggle through the squeezer quicker than their adult (all size related, not agility, may I add!!).

We are pleased that our pre-school continues to develop and offer a great little setting for local children. If you are interested in finding out about places you can contact the pre-school staff on 640842.

Alison Whawell

Helen's Trust Golden Gate 10K at Chatsworth



It's taken a while but I really need to say a big thank you to everyone from the village who took the trouble to sponsor me for the Helen's Trust Golden Gate 10K run on a baking hot Sunday at the end of May.

Aside from a bit of a climb up to the Hunting Tower in the first 2k, the route was surprisingly forgiving, so

despite a niggly achilles injury that had hampered any serious training, I made it around the course in 54 minutes 56 secs, finishing 278th out of 763 runners on the day. See picture above. If I look in pain it's because I was.

The winning time was a ridiculous 34 mins 21 secs.

I raised £434 of which £133 was as a direct response to the UTE article from people in the village so thank you to everyone who donated and thank you to all at Casey's shop for collecting most of the local donations.

For more information about the valuable work of Helen's Trust go to www.Helenstrust.org.uk

Thank you
Ray Holmes

Improving Derbyshire's Roads

We're launching a new campaign urging people to report problems on Derbyshire roads and making sure they're in a good state of repair. So whether it's a pothole, faulty street light or blocked gully, report it and we'll sort it. To report a problem, visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/reportit and fill in a form online, email the details to callcentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or call Derbyshire 08456 058 058.

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Local Lady Graduates

Karina Askew graduated from Sheffield University with a Teaching degree. Karina achieved a BA Honours with QTS after completing her 3 year degree course.

I'd just like to say "Well Done!" to my Mum for getting her Teaching Degree.

Harry Askew

P.S. Congratulations from all of Karina's friends too. Well done.



Police Update

Dark Nights

The darker nights have arrived and there has been a general increase in crime across the county which is the norm for this time of year. You do live in a safe area but unfortunately the perfect world does not exist. Every one still needs to be alert and make their own home and property as secure as possible.

Security Tips

- Outside Security lighting, make sure it is working- Good Lighting can put off or draw attention to a thief.
- Make it look like you are at home when you are out. Remember that most burglaries happen when a house or flat is empty. They are also more

likely to happen in the evening or at night. Close your curtains at night so people cannot look into your rooms but make sure you open them during the day.

- If you're going away, cancel the milk or newspaper deliveries and don't forget to make arrangements with the post office to retain or redirect your mail.

- Small hidden safes are suitable for passports, jewellery, cheque books, credit cards etc.

- Lock your garden gates, garages and shed's. Prevent intruders getting to the back and sides of your home by installing strong fencing or gates. A thorny hedge along the boundary of your property can put thieves off. Check for weak spots where offenders can get through.

- Garages and sheds are full of expensive tools or gardening equipment. Keep them locked and mark your tools and equipment. Beware if the garage door allows a connecting door to the house, a thief could work undetected.

- Lock your car, don't leave valuables such as Satnav's, cameras and laptops in the vehicles. Consider a steering lock.

- Lock your House doors. Consider New Five lever mortise deadlocks (KitemarkedBS3621)

- New Window's. Consider British standard BS7950

- Photograph and list your valuables. Selecta DNA kits are available via Police stations.

- Join a Neighbourhood Watch or the community messaging service.

Winter Conditions

Remember to check your lights and tyres. Clean your windows in frosty weather and keep some warm clothing, a torch and perhaps some chocolate in your car and something to drink in case you break down. Check your mobile phone is charged with battery

and call time.

Christmas / New Year Festivities

Visiting relatives or attending that festive party, please nominate a driver who won't drink alcohol or get a taxi; you may need that driving licence for your job!

I and your safer neighbourhood policing team would like to wish you all a very safe and happy Holiday.

Pc 616 Kevin Lowe

Tel: 0345 123 33 33 (722/2029)

Traidcraft

Sales this month have rocketed with Christmas approaching - £1238 including £37 at the Farmers' Service, £197 at the Coffee Morning at All Saints' Church, £46 at the Oxfam Ceilidh and £47 at St Anselm's School Concert.

I was amazed to receive a call from Traidcraft last week to say that my name had been first to be drawn out of a hat to go on a trip to Chile. This is to meet the producer groups at work there including Apicoop, where the honey and blueberries come from and Vinos Lautaro, the co-operative where the Fairtrade Chilean wine is produced.

The trip is for two weeks in the second half of March and the party will number 13 - lucky for some!

More details in due course.

Peter Bird



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Parish Council Notes

Our readers are reminded that the following is only an account of the proceedings of the meeting held by the Great Longstone Parish Council on Wednesday 18th November 2009. The official minutes can be obtained from the Clerk or viewed on the village notice board on Main Street.

As usual the public were reminded that they were not allowed to participate once the meeting had been opened but were invited to make comments before that had happened. A comment was made regarding the poor state of repair of the footpath leading from Grisedale Road West to the White Lion. This footpath has just been resurfaced but already there is grass growing through it. Members of the Parish Council had also noted this problem and were amazed at how quickly the vegetation had grown with one account referring to the work being finished on the Friday and grass being seen growing through the new path by the following Monday!

The meeting officially opened at 7:32pm

Apologies

No Apologies were received, all councillors were present.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 21st October meeting were accepted as a true record and signed off.

Declarations of Interest

Hugh Wright declared an interest in the Roads/Paths section of the Maintenance item.

Precept

The bulk of the meeting was taken up attempting to finalise the precept for the 2010/11 year, i.e. the annual budget of the Parish Council.

The use of reserves was debated and clarified so this year's budget would more clearly differentiate a general contingency reserve, to cover things

like payments to the Village Hall (such as those required earlier in the year) and other unforeseen eventualities, from other amounts of money which are not necessarily to be spent this year but that are being earmarked for a specific future purpose. An example of the latter being the resurfacing of the tennis court which will take place every few years.

Following this discussion, a spreadsheet was pored over for some time. The spreadsheet contained a line-by-line breakdown of Parish Council spending for the previous year and projections for next year. The first draft of numbers indicated an increase in the precept requirements, year-on-year, of approximately 20%, a figure deemed to be too high by all present who believed that something closer to 1% was required. As the councillors got stuck into some pruning of the numbers this increase steadily dropped until miraculously settling at a final level of +1.1%! A much more agreeable number.

You can exercise your powers under the Freedom of Information Act by viewing the Parish Council budget on the village website www.greatlongstone.net. At the moment you can only view the budget for the current year, the finalised precept for 2010/11 will appear on there in due course. You can of course also subject the spending of your district and county council to the relentless probing of your financial spotlight, again using links on the village website and all without leaving the comfort of your computer chair.

2010 Village Day/Week

A discussion was had to start preparations for Village Day and Village Week for next year.

Village Day is in essence a consultation day between the villagers

and their council and is something that the Parish Council seem to be very keen on. The serious part of Village Day is the forum where the views of the villagers can be heard (and will then hopefully influence council decision making) and also where the council can inform the people as to what is going on in and around their village. The main challenge of Village Day seems to be to make the day entertaining enough such that this forum is sufficiently well attended.

Several ideas were talked about to maximise the turnout. It was felt by most councillors that whilst the recent turnouts have been good, there are large sections of the village that were under-represented, in particular the parents of local families. A good amount of discussion was focussed on how to solve this, with the most popular theory being that if Village Day could be made to be an entertaining combination of a forum as well as a full day of events for kids, then turnout might be boosted. Suzy Barton pointed to the recent success of the circus training course run during Village Week earlier in the year as an example of what could be achieved. The conclusion of the councillors was, to paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt and the 1989 film Field of Dreams, build it for the kids and the parents will come.

There was also concern that maybe attendance is held down by people's lack of belief that their suggestions will be acted upon by the council, so it was decided that a good idea would be to make the plans for the playground and recreation ground, being led by Wendy Long, the centrepiece of this year's Village Day to show that the views and ideas expressed last year had been heard and that progress was being made.

Village Week last year linked the Church Fete and the Cricket Club's Party on the Pitch with a week of activities. It was agreed that it was good for the Village Week to remain anchored to the Church Fete, even though the Party on the Pitch has gone. There was talk of whether another big event should be arranged to replace the Party on the Pitch, but there wasn't a consensus in favour of this being done by the Parish Council alone.

It was hoped that both events could be organised by a working group of villagers, each led by a member

James H. Bentley

**District Councillor for
Litton and Longstone
Ward**

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or

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of the Parish Council. Suzy Barton volunteered to lead organisation of the Village Day and Peter Thompson volunteered for the Village Week.

Village Developments

There was a brief discussion on the ongoing plans for various village developments including more facilities for teenagers, but there was nothing really to announce.

The meeting broke up for refreshments at 8:50pm and reconvened at 9:02pm

Police Matters and Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing specific to report. Crime would appear to be happening elsewhere.

School Matters

Wendy Long has been invited to a meeting with Longstone Primary school to discuss developing a new sustainable travel plan.

Starting with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the UK government has been placing obligations upon local authorities to promote 'sustainable travel' to and from schools. This means trying to increase the number of these journeys that take place by walking, cycling or using public transport, as opposed to by car. Over the last twenty years, the proportion of children travelling to school by car has doubled and Derbyshire County Council estimate that at peak hours up to 20% of traffic on the roads is involved in a school run.

All schools in England and Wales are required to have produced a School Travel Plan by 2010 to facilitate and promote sustainable school travel.

Planning Matters

No new planning applications received.

The application to convert part of Unit 4 in Barn Furlong into offices has been withdrawn.

Financial Matters

Current account balance is £1,000. Deposit account balance is £12,160.42. Payments to Great Longstone Cricket club for mowing of the recreation ground, to the Parish Church Council for work done to the church yard and the payment of the Clerk's salary were all approved.

The Parish Council was set to report on the negotiated increase to the Clerk's salary, but this was moved to the end for a closed session.

The receipt of £10 from Derbyshire County Council for use of the playing

field was noted. It was thought that there was a plan to increase this to £100 but this did not seem to have been carried through.

Maintenance

Parts of the playground, particularly Ethel's House, have had some remedial work done to them by a combination of Steve Mason and Peter Thompson.

A terse letter has been sent from the Clerk to the Chief Executive of Derbyshire County Council to demand an answer to the ongoing saga of pavement improvements. It seems that an agreement that the Parish Council would advise of where funds were to be best spent was ignored by DCC and they went ahead and repaired pavements that weren't in need of it. This has left various bits of pavement still the worse for wear and a depleted budget for doing the work. Many members of the council were quite angry about the situation.

The state of the footpath known as Bell Style was brought up by Suzy Barton who described the combination of wet leaves and pine cones as being especially hazardous. The Clerk is going to invite estimates to get the whole path cleared.

Sally Payne Memorial Request

Following on from last month's letter to the Parish Council regarding the possibility of creating a memorial in the village, the councillors were asked if they had any suggestions. There was some talk of new benches and kissing gates but nothing firm had been decided. It was proposed that they spend another month thinking about it.

Christmas Tree

A Christmas Tree has been sourced for the village and at a slightly cheaper price than last year! A sponsor has also been found for it.

Possible Channel Four Documentary

This was an unusual break from conventional Parish Council business.

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A production company working with Channel Four had been in touch with Suzy Barton to ask about Great Longstone with the thought of including the village in a documentary. (They were apparently delighted to hear the village had a shop as well as a dairy farm that actually sold milk!)

The council were split as to whether this, if it actually happens, would be a good thing for the village. Steve Mason was not delighted about the idea of the village being in the tourist spotlight and the council reminisced about the public mania induced when an episode of Peak Practice had a scene set at Monsal Head. Others such as Wendy Long welcomed the approach as being potentially good for local business. The council decided to wait until the plan had been developed further before venturing an opinion on whether it was worthy of support.

Wendy Long offered to liaise with the production company for now.

Correspondence

Some items of correspondence from Derbyshire Dales District Council, regarding Area Forums, and the Oak Leaf Remembrance Service had been received.

Late Items of Correspondence

There was one late item of correspondence that had been received that seemed to provoke an unusual amount of excitement amongst the councillors but unfortunately the identity of the document could not be determined from the press benches.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Great Longstone Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 16th December at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall.

The meeting was taken into a private session at 9:26pm and the public and press were politely asked to leave.

Mark Taylor

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Poice Messages from the Ringmaster System

Aquaplaning in Wet Weather

Derbyshire Constabulary is appealing to motorists to check their tyres as a matter of urgency because further heavy rain is forecast for the coming week. PC Dave Harris, Derbyshire Constabulary's Senior Forensic Collision Investigator, said: "Last weekend five people died on the county's roads and there have been several serious road collisions in which a contributing factor may have been surface water on the roads. "Tyres don't have to be bald to perform badly in wet weather. When a vehicle travels through standing water resulting from heavy rain, the tyres need as much tread as possible in order to clear a path through the water and maintain their grip to avoid the situation known as aquaplaning."

Police have also issued a specific warning to motorists to avoid having rear tyres which are significantly more worn than those on the front of the vehicle. Constable Harris explained: "Good front tyres cut through standing water on a corner or when the vehicle is changing lanes and maintain their grip but worn back tyres can't do the same. This means that there is a chance that the vehicle will spin out of control."

"It is important to realise that tyre depths do not have to have reduced to an illegal extent for rear wheel aquaplaning to develop. "Hitting a pool

of standing water at speed, especially in the dark is bad enough, but trying to regain control of a car when the back end has unexpectedly 'stepped-out' is a huge challenge for any driver. "The message is simple. Regardless of whether a car is rear-wheel or front-wheel drive, if you buy less than a full set of new tyres always make sure that the new tyres go on the back."

Note: The legal minimum depth for car tyres is 1.6mm. All tyres have small "wear bar" indicators set inside the grooves of the tread pattern set at 1.6mm. Police vehicle tyres are changed when their tread depth reaches 3mm as the police service consider this to be the minimum safe depth. Aquaplaning is defined as when a wedge of water develops between the tyre and the road surface causing the tyre to lose its grip. The likelihood of aquaplaning developing is related to the speed of the vehicle, the depth of the water, and the ability of the tyre's tread to disperse the water. Any combination of increased speed, increased depth of water, or reduced tread depth increases the likelihood of aquaplaning.

Guttering Scam

At 1143hrs on Thursday 29th October, three white males called at a property in Chesterfield, stating that they were from the council. They asked the occupant if they could clean the guttering out. The occupant agreed to this work being carried out. The guttering was taken down, then the males demanded a £3,000 deposit. They gave the victim a lift to the bank, stating that they would wait

outside, but fortunately, the victim contacted the police from the bank. The males had left the area.

Offenders like these often travel around the county, so please be extra vigilant and report any such incidents

to the police on 0345 123 33 33, quoting Incident number 255 of 29.10.09.

It is believed that the offenders were in a white panel van, registration number possibly beginning with 'Y'.

Distraction Burglaries

Residents should be extra vigilant, following a spate of distraction type burglaries on an adjacent division of the Derbyshire police area. These incidents occurred during the afternoon of Monday 9th November. The offenders called at the homes of elderly/vulnerable residents claiming to be workmen from the water board, asking residents to turn the water pressure down, or even asking to check gas and electricity. Offenders entered these homes and stole a quantity of cash.

Vehicles involved are believed to be either a silver Mazda registration number beginning GR09 or a silver Audi.

Please look out for your elderly/vulnerable neighbours and make them aware of these incidents. Ensure that your homes are secure, use a door chain if you have one. Do not let anyone into your home unless you are sure of their identity. If anyone calls at your home purporting to be from a utility company and you feel suspicious, call Derbyshire Police on 999 for an officer to attend.



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Great Longstone Junior Football Teams of the 1970s

Mick Watson wasn't the only person to feel nostalgic seeing the latest crop of footballers in the village in the orange and black of the junior sides from the 1970's.

I had to look twice as the latest group of lads to wear the Longstone colours took to the field earlier this year.

We had some great times in the seventies firstly in the under 13's and then the under 15's. I joined in 1971 and played until 1976.

I still remember the late Jack Nicholson's cries of "boot it" obviously taken straight from the Alex Ferguson coaching manual.

I was almost 10 when I first got involved in organized team sport - late by today's standards - but have never regretted it. It was the start of something that has been a big part of my life and still is nearly 40 years on.

Team work, learning that losing sometimes happens even if you play well yourself, are valuable lessons in life generally, but the exhilaration of winning is something that you never get tired of and we used to win a lot during that time.

Moving up to Lady Manners meant that we got to know many of the opposition we had played against from the neighbouring villages and this only increased the determination to do well against these new found mates. You would play with them for the school and against them in the Derwent Valley league. There was a mutual respect when you lined up against each other and the loser took some 'stick' the next day.

My mother still has some shaky 8mm film footage of some of the games at that time, however my dad was not the Steven Spielberg of his day and almost every time the ball went anywhere near the goal he would get so excited he'd forget to film the action so we have several case studies of the touch line and the feet of the spectators and

sometimes clouds, but sadly none of the goals.

Dad was one of a number of parents who would drive the teams to the matches, a task I took for granted even when I moved on to play in senior football. He would drive me over to Eckington and Saltergate three times a week to allow me to play in the Chesterfield FC youth side of the 1976/77 season and he continued to drive me to matches and training in all weather. I never really appreciated the time he put in to enable me to play, but it probably explains why he bought me my first car as soon as I could drive at 17!

After my last game for Longstone I carried on playing football all over the East Midlands and at 48 (yes Mike we are all in our late 40's now) I still play in the East Midlands Veterans League. I've turned out in football kits of every hue and as I have to face the reality that my competitive 11 a side football days are numbered it hasn't been lost on me that the football kit I currently turn out in coincidentally is orange and black. Maybe it's trying to tell me something.

Signing for Longstone under 13's in 1971 was the start of a sporting life which has provided some great times, some lasting memories and most importantly some good mates. If these young lads today try hard enough and have the talent you never know where it might lead. My team mate at Matlock Town in 1995, Matt Duke, is currently first choice goalkeeper for Hull City in the Premier League.

So I hope that the lads who pull on the bright orange shirts today go on to enjoy sport for as long as possible and even if they don't reach the Premier League I hope they enjoy it as much as I did. I'll be watching how they get on.

Ray Holmes

Bakewell Medical Centre

0844 477 3408

www.bakewellmedicalcentre.net

Normal Surgery Opening Times Mon 8am to 8.30 pm (unless it's a bank holiday when late opening will be on Wednesday instead), Tues 8am to 6.30 pm, Wed 7am to 6.30 pm, Thurs and Fri 8am to 6.30 pm. We do not close for lunch.

Christmas/New Year Closure The Surgery will close at 2pm on 24th December and will re-open on Tuesday 29th December. It will close again at 6.30pm on 31st December and re-open on Monday 4th January.

Our Evening Practice Nurses provide two evening surgery sessions per month on Mondays.

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Patient Participation Group (PPG) - if you would like to join the new PPG, please contact David Jackson, Membership Secretary on 01246 583452.

The Surgery will be closed for Christmas and New Year on the following dates:

Friday 25 December

Saturday 26 December

Monday 28 December

Friday 01 January 2010

For emergencies Call:- 01246 582216

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My Dear Friends

All sorts of customs and traditions have collected themselves around our celebration of Christmas. There is the turkey and the Christmas pudding, the tree, the cards, the presents, holly, mistletoe and decorations. Some are really quite modern – like the sending of Christmas cards. Others, like holly and mistletoe, go back a long way and are pre-Christian in origin.

The giving of presents, to begin with, was not something which happened at Christmas but on the 6th December, the Feast of St Nicholas. Nicholas was an obscure bishop from Asia Minor who became very popular in Europe during the 11th century. One of the stories about him told how he saved three girls from slavery by secretly putting a bag of money into each girl's shoe as she slept. His gift became their dowry enabling them to marry. From that tale developed the custom on St Nicholas' day of children putting out a shoe – later a stocking – for St Nicholas (Santa Claus) to fill. In the first half of the 20th century that was still common practice in many parts of Europe but now St Nicholas has merged with the red coated Old Man of the winter Solstice who, with his reindeer sledge, sits in grottoes and department stores, and is seen as the one who brings presents to children on Christmas night. (Originally this figure was dressed in green. Red comes from an advertising campaign of Coca-Cola in the 1920s!)

Nevertheless, whatever the origin, and however much presents bring expensive nightmares to parents, they can point to something much deeper.

While I have lost count of the Christmas sermons I have heard which tell how the Christ-child is God's present to us, they may still help us understand the mystery of Christ's birth.

Look at the face of a child when they are giving you something. They delight in your enjoyment, your approval of their gift; they are excited at your pleasure; and this is because there is something very important about giving.

Of course children enjoy getting presents but the magic of giving goes deeper and touches a basic need we have which is about being able to give and for our gift to be accepted and appreciated. Part of Christmas is the exchange of gifts: receiving presents, yes, but also giving them. And part of what Christ's birth does is to enable us to give. He enriches us so that we have something to offer: something, the only thing, which in the end is of any real and lasting value. He enriches us with love.

Without love no gift is a true present and with love any gift is precious. And love is the only thing of any worth that we can offer to God, which he then receives with delight. We experience his delight by feeling, often without being conscious why, that we have somehow become more alive, and have begun to live in a way that makes life seem worthwhile. For God's delight is for us to share in his love because then we grow closer to him and to each other.

Have a happy Christmas. Enjoy both receiving and giving presents!

Yours sincerely,

Fr Christopher Benson

Notes From St Giles'

Most of us will now be making preparations to celebrate Christmas. At Longstone and Wardlow we start on December 6th with our 'Toy Services' in our morning services. Toys and gifts are wrapped and labelled by age

for boys and girls and presented at the services to be distributed to children who probably won't receive anything at Christmas. This reminds us of the pleasure of giving without any return.

As I mentioned last month, we do not have flowers in Church during Advent. We do have an Advent candle, arranged on a pedestal near the pulpit. It has four red candles representing the four Sundays in Advent in each corner, with a white candle in the centre. It is decorated with ivy, holly, berries and other seasonal flowers. Each Sunday, one candle is lit so that, by the time for the Nine Lessons and Carols, all four are burning at different levels. The central white candle is lit at the midnight service to symbolise that Jesus Christ was born for us.

The church will be decorated for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 20th December at 6:30pm and will be a candlelit service.

We are preparing for the carol service and the choir also sings carols at Hassop Hall and Thornhill House. It is a busy time for everyone, juggling time to prepare for school concerts, family get-togethers and Church festivities.

On Christmas Eve, we start our celebrations with 'Happy Birthday Jesus' at St. Giles' at 4:00pm. This is a lovely get-together led by June Fawcett for those children who go to 'Tinies Pray and Praise' and any other little ones to share. At 6:30pm around the Christmas tree on the Village Green, we have our guest band playing carols for us to sing, and this year we have the Christmas Pageant to enjoy as well. This must be one of the village highlights and is very popular with everyone.

The culmination of all this preparation is the Midnight Eucharist at St. Giles', starting at 11:30pm. There is also Christmas Worship at 11am followed by a Eucharist at 12 noon

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on Christmas Day. I do hope you will be able to enjoy at least one of these celebrations.

Amidst all this activity, we are also well into rehearsals for the pantomime. A real treat is promised. There will be two performances this time; on 15th and 16th January 2010. We are fortunate this time in having an enthusiastic group of young people to add to our young stars from last year, plus our audience participation! Not to be missed, no excuses. Just come and join in the fun.

Pam Smith

Services at St Giles and Wardlow

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

8.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Parish Eucharist
(Wardlow)
11.00am Toy Service
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 13th December Advent 3

11.00am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm Carol Service (Wardlow)
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

8.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Morning Worship
(Wardlow)
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

24th December

6.30pm Christmas Pageant
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

25th December

8.00am Christmas Eucharist
(Wardlow)
11.00am Christmas Eucharist

Sunday 27th December St John

11.00am Parish Eucharist

December in the Garden

Lawns - Dig over areas to be seeded in the Spring. Clean and overhaul machines and equipment.

Vegetables - Continue Winter digging leaving ground rough. Prepare the site for next year's runner beans. Under glass force rhubarb and chicory.

Fruit - Continue pruning and planting in suitable weather. Spray all fruit bushes and trees with a Winter wash when dormant.

Roses - Prepare established beds for Winter, shortening long growths to two feet to stop wind loosening plants. Collect and burn fallen leaves which show signs of Black Spot disease. Continue planting if conditions allow.

Dahlias - Continue checking stored tubers for signs of rot. Treat as needed.

Chrysanthemums - Firm ground around overwintering plants lifted by frost. Under glass take cuttings of large exhibition varieties. Keep stools of garden varieties cool and not too wet.

Sweet Peas - Cover frames with matting after frost to avoid rapid thawing of Autumn seedlings.

Herbaceous plants - Continue tidying borders and digging between plants. Order plants or seeds for Spring planting and sowing.

Trees and Shrubs - Plant deciduous trees and shrubs in mild weather. Tie branches of young conifers together with sacking to prevent snow damage.

General tasks - Check tubers, corms, onions and other bulbous stored plants and stored roots and fruits before severe frosts. Provide protection. Beware of mice; trap or poison them. Lag outdoor water pipes and taps.

Great Longstone Methodist Chapel

Local Minister Revd Fran Lane
Tel. 01629 814362

6th December

10.30am - Mr Rex Thompson

13th December

6.30pm - Carol Service by candle
light - Revd. Fran Lane

20th December

10.30am - Mr R Jackson

27th December

11.00am - United Service at the
Parish Church

All are welcome to join us

Christmas Mass Times

All Saints, Hassop and English
Martyrs, Bakewell

24th December:

6.00pm: Children's Mass in Bakewell

9.00pm: Carol Service followed by
"Midnight" Mass in Hassop

25th December:

10.00am: Christmas Morning Mass
in Bakewell

26th December: Feast of St Stephen:

11.30am: Mass in Hassop

6.15pm: 1st Mass of Sunday in
Bakewell

27th December:

9.00am: Mass in Bakewell

10.30am: Mass in Hassop

28th December:

11.30am: Mass in Hassop

31st December:

10.00am: Mass in Bakewell

1st January 2010:

11.30am: Mass in Bakewell for Peace

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What's On

Thornbridge Hall's Xmas Fair

Savour the Festive Season at Thornbridge Hall's Xmas Food and Drink Fair

Kick start the Festive break with a visit to the magnificent Thornbridge Hall's Xmas Food & Drink Fair in partnership with Peak District Foods. The event takes place on the 20th December from 10am to 3pm and entry is free.

Treat yourself to a wide range of seasonal, traditional local food and drink from some of the regions finest local producers, relax in the underground bar and sample Thornbridge's award winning ales. Browse the selection of seasonal gifts and wreaths on display in the Orangery and after exploring the stately home's gardens, warm up with mulled wine and mince pies and let the festive sounds of Tideswell Singers and Whaley Bridge Brass Band lift you into the Xmas spirit.

Thornbridge Hall is located off the A6020 at Ashford in the Water, please call 01629 640617 for further information. To find out more about Peak District Foods, please go to our website at www.peakidistrictfoods.co.uk

Bakewell Pantomime

The Shoestring Players present 'Aladin'

Bakewell's First Community Pantomime
in Bakewell Town Hall
on

Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd January
at 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd January
at 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £5 Adult, £2.50 Children
from The Bakewell Bookshop
from 1st December

Crispin Christmas Events

Carols at the Crispin Thursday 10th December with Cressbrook Band 8.30pm onwards. There will be a raffle with the proceeds to Cressbrook Band. Hot turkey cobs and mulled wine will be available.

Boxing Day Christmas Quiz from 9.00pm.

Annual Christmas Charity Darts, Dominoes and Crib knockout Monday 28th December 7.30pm

New Year's Eve party, music and dancing with nightsound from 9.00pm till late with complimentary buffet.

Traditional Christmas menu will be available both lunchtimes and evenings throughout December

Paul, Joanne and Family would like to wish all our customers a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Bakewell Parish Church Festival of Trees

Thurs 3rd - Wed 9th December
A 'spectacular' display of Christmas Trees

Open: 9.30am - 5pm (Thurs from 10.30am and Sun from 12.30pm).

Thurs 3rd, 7.30pm: A 'Festival of Christmas' Carol Service and official opening.

Evening concerts:

Fri 4th 7.30pm: 'Sheffield Folk Chorale,' £8.

Sat 5th, 7pm: 'Sing-along Messiah,' £4.

Tickets from Bakewell Tourist Information Centre, or on the door.

Mon 7th, 7pm: 'The High Peak Wind Band'.

Tues 8th, 6.30pm: 'Concert by the Young People of Bakewell'.

Wed 9th, 6.30pm: Service of Thanksgiving.

Longstone School

November Lottery Result

1st Shirley Moores
2nd Chris and Brian Waddington
3rd Denise Coltman

Saturday Morning Waste Collection Dates

Wardlow

16th January, 07.45 - 09.15

The service is Stop on Request, starting at the top of the village and ending at 'The Mires'.

Little Longstone

30th January, 07.45 - 09.00

By the telephone box

Great Longstone

30th January, 09.15 - 10.45

Near to the War Memorial.

Other Waste: Stonegravels, Chesterfield is open seven days a week.

Note from the Editor

Thank you to all the readers that submit material for publication and especially to those who regularly send in their articles.

The deadline for copy for the next issue is **Tuesday 29th December** Please remember to include your name and contact details with any copy that is submitted. Failure to do so will result in the editor being unable to publish your copy.

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

Subscriptions are available, please contact Liz McDonald, Tel (01629) 640171

Other enquiries and correspondence to: Haven Cottage, Main Street, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1TS

Email: editor@ute.org.uk

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