This photo was taken in June 2019 by Colby Burke on the way back to Great Longstone from Hassop Station, near Toll Bar House. Within three months the maize would grow to over six feet tall. Colby loves the geometric form of the rows of seedlings, and looking back at this image made him think of hope for new beginnings starting to sprout into life post-COVID-19, just as the native American Hopi people rub newborn babies’ faces with white maize meal as the symbol of new beginnings.

Colby’s photo can be found on the website photowalking.co.uk in the Latest Photos section under Geometry, along with many others taken around the UTE catchment area. Each of the walks on this website contains an easy to follow map of the route, accompanied with very clear instructions so you can’t lose your way. They also have several striking photographs taken along the way at various times of the year.

The estimated times allow for plenty of time for you to stop, contemplate the natural beauty and record memories, or just to enjoy a pint of beer and food at one of the excellent pubs and tea rooms in the area.

Special offer for UTE readers! See advert on back page for details.
Professor John Nelson Tarn OBE, 23rd November 1934-8th November 2020

My mother, Vanda Wright, had a conversation in 1965 with cousin Irene Wright of Eyam Hall about the new man giving classes on architecture at the Mechanics Institute in Eyam. She jumped at the opportunity to go out each week, leaving my father Walter behind to be responsible for me at home. This new man was Doctor Tarn, a 30 year old lecturer at Sheffield University, and thus ensued a very long friendship with the Wright family at Eyam and Great Longstone. When the Wrights first met John, he still had his parents up in the north-east where he was brought up, and a distant cousin whom he referred to as an ‘aunt’ in Harrogate. Our meetings with him were through his classes at Sheffield and subsequently in Nottingham when in 1971 he found himself to be the youngest professor in the country. This was to be short lived because he took on the more attractive post as Roscoe Chair of Architecture at the University of Liverpool in 1973.

With John’s move to Liverpool, one would have thought he would have said goodbye to Derbyshire. Far from it; he became a ministerial appointee for what was the Peak Park Joint Planning Board in 1976. Thus he made regular visits for a Friday meeting at Aldern House, and subsequently bought a house in Matlock in Peak. When his first ministerial appointment came to an end, a councillor from the fringes of Manchester gave up his seat so that John could continue to serve on the board. Had this episode not taken place, he would not have served as long as he did: 25 years, twenty of which as chairman of the planning committee.

John became a natural surrogate member of the Wright family by taking part in whatever the Wrights did, including holidays. He was asked on one occasion to present a paper to the Royal British Institute of Architects in London on a controversial subject whilst on holiday with my parents. The RIBA made a serious offer to bear the cost of flying him to London and back to France but he flatly refused. The only time I know that he said ‘no’ to something.

John, being a bachelor, was so dedicated in whatever he did. He ran extramural classes one Saturday a month at Tawny House in Matlock on architecture. His knowledge was so broad that when giving talks, he would reference literary people and facts of the contemporary period, and this made his talks so compelling to listen to. Once a year, he would organise a ‘PTD’ which stood for ‘Professor Tarn’s do!’ This was to be an excursion to a historic place such as Southwell Minster, Lincoln Cathedral or a series of churches. Sundays saw John at Longstone Church twice, for Matins and for Evensong. From 1977, he was choirmaster and organist. He contributed so much in the way of music by arranging the services for the benefit of the village. Wherever he could, he would discuss church music with fellow organists.

In 1992, he was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours. He never mentioned it to the family until I spotted his name in The Times whilst he was in our kitchen! He was so modest that he never bragged about anything he did nor his achievements. He did not meet the Queen on his own, though, as he was accompanied by his ‘aunt’ Gertie and Janet Cumming. Through church, Robert and Janet Cumming were longstanding friends and they too went on holidays together.

Beyond Longstone, John took on other roles during the week at Liverpool. Whilst at the university, he promoted a course for architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1988 and became its chairman in 1992 for ten years. He served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Liverpool and retired in 1999. He certainly did not put his feet up at the time, becoming chairman of a housing association in 1998, the Riverside Group, until 2010. He still found the time to help out at the Anglican Cathedral and the Archdiocese of Liverpool by being an advisor to various committees. At the latter, he volunteered his expertise with the art and architecture department of the Liturgy Commission, going on to produce the first set of guidelines for Church reordering in the Archdiocese in the 1970s. He continued until recently and achieved his highest honour; that only a few can match, by becoming a Papal Knight of the Order of St Gregory for his very long-standing dedication to church architecture and to Catholic heritage. Other duties he took on were being a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside and Vice President of the Friends of the Peak District.

Until last year, John managed to look after two houses without any help other than from gardeners. He organised his time very well by keeping calm; he had a wonderful sense of humour and never got flustered. He downsized to a flat in Darley Dale last year but from this March lockdown took its toll and his health deteriorated whilst failing to leave his flat. In August he was in hospital, and came to Thornhill House to be surrounded by people he knew from church. John achieved so much in such a quiet way that only a few could surpass as much as he accomplished during his lifetime. He even wrote books, and has left a local one for posterity The Peak District National Park – Its Architecture that was published in 1971. St. Giles’ Church was very fortunate to have had his input since the 1970s. He will be missed by many friends, acquaintances and colleagues.

Hugh Wright

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During the 1950s the Station Master at Great Longstone was Horace Gundry. Every year he would organise a day trip to Blackpool from Longstone Station when the Blackpool illuminations were on. They left about 8am and returned about midnight. Most of the villagers used to go on the trips and this photo was taken around 1953. It shows some of the people waiting for the train.

**Ian Cox**

**Who Turned the Lights Off?**

Longstone residents will be aware of several recent electricity power cuts, mostly for just a few minutes or less. Di Hawksworth wondered how this has affected other UTE readers, particularly the elderly. Her Mum, Janet Finney, has become rather distressed at the frequency. Although Di has got her some emergency lighting, Janet’s heating gets reset and her TV goes into a reboot mode, which she can’t cope with. Di is now looking into a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) to solve Janet’s problem. Searching online for ‘**ups home devices**’ yields many options from £60 upwards.

UTE got in touch with Western Power Distribution, and they have agreed to investigate the problem. In a statement, they said:

“The recent momentary interruptions in the power supply have been caused by a circuit breaker operating on the overhead network. These operate if they detect something coming into contact with the overhead line, for example when windy. If the problem clears from the line then power will be restored within a few seconds and this minimises lengthy disruption to power supplies. The local team manager has advised that one of the interruptions was caused by a circuit breaker on the high voltage circuit (affecting a larger number of houses) and the subsequent two on the low voltage network. He has now arranged for the circuit to be patrolled to check for anything that could be interfering with the overhead lines. Any remedial action will then be taken as necessary. Please do accept our apologies for the disruption that you have experienced.”

**Use it or Lose it!**

Liz McDonald used the bus recently to make a short trip to Bakewell, just to try it out as she hadn’t used it for months and the times have changed. She reports:

“It’s now possible to use it for a short visit (half an hour), for example leave Longstone 11.22am and return on the 12 noon bus. Just enough time to do a bit of shopping! Mask wearing obligatory.

BUT...very few people are using it. The driver told me that the bus to Monyash has been taken off due to lack of use. We don’t want Longstone to be without a bus!”

Don’t forget that if you are of State Pension age or are disabled, you can get free off-peak travel with a Gold Card from Derbyshire County Council [01629 533190]. This can also be used to obtain reduced rates on the Derbyshire Connect service, who provide weekly door-to-door transport for shopping, for those unable to use a bus [01335 300670].

The 173 bus currently leaves Great Longstone for Bakewell at 7.37, 8.37, 9.37, 11.22, 13.22, 15.22 and 17.22, and the return bus leaves Bakewell 8.00, 10.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.45 and 17.45. Journey time is 8 minutes. The bus service continues in the other direction to Tideswell and Castleton via Monsal Head and Wardlow. The full details of the timetable can be found online or at the bus stop opposite the Green.
Volunteer Photographer Needed

Is there anyone out there who would like to be involved with conservation work in Monsal Dale by taking photographs of key areas about six times per year? Really positive developments have transpired over the past few years. Local people involved with the Dale have built up positive links with Chatsworth estate managers: people like Nick Wood (Estates Director) and John Everritt (Forestry Manager for Chatsworth and Bolton Abbey).

We recently had a site meeting with them. John suggested that taking photographs of the most important areas of the Dale at regular intervals would show the changes that are taking place. This would help identify any further work that John and his team need to undertake. This is particularly important because ash die-back is predicted to affect a large number of trees in the Dale over the next five years. John would like early warning of any trees that show the symptoms of this disease.

Don’t feel you have to be an expert photographer. Just the basic skills and the ability to send photographs digitally to John and a few other people is all that is needed. We are thinking that each session will involve around six sessions spread at regular intervals throughout the year.

Interested? Give Keith Adamson a call on 01629 640427 or email keithjadamson@gmail.com

Dogs Causing Havoc in the Countryside

Three weeks ago, two dogs were seen in a field chasing cows. This is an ongoing problem for us at Church Lane Farm and it is sad to have to say that it is local people who own these particular dogs and do not take this problem as seriously as they should. Only last year, in UTE, the Derbyshire Rural Crime Team explained that it is an offence, under various pieces of legislation, for a dog to be out of control and worrying livestock. The owner needs to make sure this doesn’t happen as they will be held liable for the dog’s behaviour. Responsible dog owners also know to pick up their dog’s waste in a bag to prevent the spread of a disease called Neospora, that affects animal health.

Earlier this year, Tom had been trying for a very long time to get one of his pedigree Charolais, Nadia, in calf so as a last chance he decided to run her in the field with Winston, our bull. This proved to be a success and she was seven and a half months out of a nine months’ pregnancy when the dogs entered the enclosed area and chased her around. The direct result of this was that she aborted her calf in the field. This is awful for the animal and very distressing for Tom as her owner. What is often underestimated is the hidden cost of such an incident - the cow may be injured and need veterinary services but also she may not be able to conceive again. In this case, it was not financially viable to keep her so she was due to be culled from the herd last Friday.

However, there is a happy ending to this story. At 7am that morning, Tom and I had loaded her in the trailer. However, we love our animals and hate to see them go, so as we stood looking at her over the closed gate, we thought she might still have the potential of being a quality breeding animal and decided to give her one more chance. Now she’s back in the field again and starting the process of trying to get back in calf. Hopefully she may have her own calf towards next Christmas. Fingers crossed!

To keep Nadia and all other farm animals safe, a dog needs to be in the same field as you, in total control, or on a lead if not trusted. Please follow the Countryside Code.

Dan Cox

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For Dog’s Sake!

It may seem funny to watch your dog chase a herd of cattle, but aside from the tragedy of losing an unborn calf (and the financial cost to the farmer), this irresponsible behaviour may end up risking other lives. Once cattle associate dogs with extreme stress, they are likely to turn to the offensive, putting the lives of responsible dog owners and their pets in danger: cows have long memories. If you have walked the footpath between Chertpit Lane and Little Longstone recently, you will have seen the sign in the photo. Cows can be fiercely protective of anything they perceive as a risk to their young and as they can weigh up to over a ton (1000 kilos), they are capable of inflicting severe damage and even trampling you to death.

Jill Thornton had a most unpleasant experience walking her small terrier through the Coxes’ cows soon after the incident reported above. Previously, they had never taken any notice, but this time a cow started running towards her from the far side of the field. "I've never been so terrified," Jill said, “I only just made it to the gate, and if someone hadn’t been there to open it, I don’t know what would have happened. The cow continued to blare and pace around in a threatening way all the time I was getting my breath back.” In 2020, two dog walkers were killed, and many more seriously injured. This happens every year: don’t let this happen here!

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In Loving Memory of Alan Trevor Prince, 23rd November 1936-8th November 2020

Trevor was born and raised in Northwood Lane, Darley Dale, the beloved son of Albert and Elizabeth Prince. He had an idyllic childhood and often shared with his family fond memories of growing up in such a beautiful part of the world. Trevor trained as an engineer and had a real skill at building and repairing all types of machinery throughout his life. He enjoyed his national service at the Royal Army Medical Corps at Wheatley, Oxfordshire. Here Trevor met Andy, David and Howard Rose who became friends for life. A devoted husband, Trevor married Elizabeth in October 1971 at Bakewell Parish Church. Soon after, the couple moved to Great Longstone where they made more life-long friends and happy memories.

Trevor was an extremely talented and skilled craftsman, teaching taught pottery classes at Hope Valley College from 1974 until 2019. He had a regular and devoted class of students, many of whom attended his class year-on-year. His enthusiasm for pottery, his patience and sense of humour made him a great teacher, bringing out the very best in anyone fortunate enough to join his class. Very little got in the way of Trevor teaching, even snow on the moors didn’t stop him. In 2014 Trevor was honoured to be asked to create two new crosses for the lychgates of St Giles’ Church, Great Longstone. He took great care and skill in carving two identical terracotta crosses, which now grace the top of the lychgates to the church.

Trevor was a fantastic, loving father to his daughters Becky and Emma, and he ensured that like him they too had magical childhoods. As the girls grew up, Trevor’s patience and wisdom helped guide the two into adulthood. Trevor was excited to have four grandsons: Edgar, Ted and twins Horatio and Rex. He loved sharing with them his interests in mechanical engineering and gardening and he enjoyed watching them play together. Trevor was a wonderful son, husband, father and grandfather. He was also a much loved friend, neighbour and teacher. Trevor will be remembered by all he loved and who loved him. We will treasure his memory in our hearts and minds.

The family would like to thank the many people who sent their kind expressions of sympathy, tributes to Trevor and offers of help. It is greatly appreciated.

Becky Cairns

Happy New Year

All of us at Under The Edge wish our readers a happy, healthy and safe New Year. We are incredibly grateful to our advertisers for sticking with us through thick and thin, despite the very straitened circumstances most have been experiencing. We would also like to thank all those who sent in contributions. These have been particularly welcome this year with no village activities to publicise or report. Thanks are due to our redoubtable distribution team, and to Nick Casey and Heather Turner for stepping in to help get UTE to you during the first lockdown.

We’d also like to welcome Steve Glossop, who has joined Michael Beale and myself on the Editorial team. Steve has run his own creative agency from Little Longstone for 15 years, and has created many ads for UTE in the past, including The Crispin. You can see examples of his work online at skylightcreative.co.uk.

Another warm welcome is due to Hayley Godbehere, who has been proofreading UTE for the last few months. Hayley graduated recently, and took up proofreading and editing in 2020. She spent three years in marketing at a creative agency and now works at Thornbridge Outdoors in Great Longstone.

Unsung Heros

It has been a very difficult year but our community has shown great resilience and fortitude during the pandemic. This is in no small measure due to the efforts of many unsung heroes and so I just wanted to record a few thanks, I am sure on behalf of many.

These include Jenny Croft and her band of volunteers, Will and Heather at the Shop and their fleet of delivery men led by Gavin, Nick Casey for making deliveries together with the newspapers, our friendly postmen, Bill and Zoe McGregor for their surprise deliveries of scones and afternoon teas to WI widows, and all our neighbours who ran errands and kept up the spirits of those most vulnerable.

I am sure there are many more who thought of their neighbours and carried out acts of kindness; I just want to record our appreciation. I hope when this dreadful disease is behind us the community spirit will live on!

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Mere Refuse

*I have lived in Great Longstone for 23 years, and before that as many years in Reading, where I spent five years working with the homeless at a centre set up by Churches Together in Reading. Of all the many encounters I had with the hundreds of people who came through our doors, this is one of the most memorable. Names have been changed, but not the facts.*

It was the coldest night of the winter so far. Jane Westlake turned restlessly in her warm bed and only when she heard David’s key in the front door, did she relax and feel the desire for sleep taking hold of her. David had phoned her earlier that evening to let her know he would be delayed. He was on his way back from a meeting in Manchester. There had been a pile up on the M6 north of Birmingham. He was at a service station having a bite to eat. He had no idea how long it would take him to get home. There was freezing fog. There could be more hold-ups. He told her not to wait up.

“Are you awake?” David asked softly. “Hmm” returned Jane sleepily. David turned on the bedside light. He moved quietly about the room preparing for bed. Jane felt a rush of cold air on her shoulders as he lifted the edge of the duvet and slid into the space beside her. “What time is it?” Jane asked yawning. “Two o’clock.” “Do you want a drink or anything?” “No, I’m fine.” David leant over and kissed her, then turned out the light. Jane pulled the duvet closer about them, encircled David with her arm, and silently gave thanks for his safe return before drifting off to sleep.

The next morning, Jane abandoned all thoughts of hanging out any washing. The garden was white with frost. The towels would just freeze on the line. She was already running late. They had overslept and she and David had had a hasty breakfast before he drove to his office on the far side of town. Jane looked at the clock. There was just enough time to hang this load in the garage. She sighed. It was on a day such as this that she wished they’d invested in a dryer, but they ate up the electricity and so they had made the decision to do without one. It was, they told themselves, a small contribution to conserving the resources on their increasingly fragile planet. But she and David were really only paying lip service to the problem.

Jane drove to St Philip’s Church Hall. It was used as a drop-in Centre for the homeless and needy people in their town. She had been involved with the work there from the beginning; increasingly the plight of the homeless had made her feel that she must try and do something to help. She and David were very conscious of the stability their comfortable home had given their three children. A home was much more than a roof over one’s head; it was a place where you could be yourself, a place to grow, to feel secure, accepted. It was this realisation that had drawn her into the work at St Philip’s. There were so many hurting and lonely people in this town and in many others across the country. Some had sought to ease their pain by the use of drugs or alcohol; others had retreated into themselves, sinking into a state of depression or apathy. There were a few who were deeply disturbed and only long-term care and love would reach them. There were many unemployed who came to the centre. She had got to know some of them well. Among the older men were skilled workers who had been made redundant and in this youth obsessed society were without the hope of a job. What price did one put on years of experience? It made her so angry that society was willing to consign them, her fellow human beings, to a life of slow but certain decay. God knows they wanted to work but how could they pay their bills on the pittance many job vacancies offered? They had to earn considerably more in order to pay the inflated rents charged by many landlords. At least on housing benefit they had their rent paid by the council. It was small wonder that they remained on the dole. They were often better off. How, she wondered, would she or many of her friends manage to survive on less than fifty pounds a week?

Jane arrived at the centre at the same time as Louise, one of her fellow volunteers. “What a night!” Jane began “David didn’t get in till two. There was a pile up on the M6. Did Andrew get off ok?” “Yes, he went yesterday afternoon.” “Where is it this time?” “Singapore.” “How long will he be away?” “Ten days.” Louise unlocked the door and they went into the hall. Other volunteers arrived and preparations for the day began. There was tea and coffee to be made, sandwiches to be cut, and the soup and main meal to be cooked. All of this was undertaken by a team of volunteers working continuously to feed the seventy or more souls who would cross the threshold that day. Jane’s team leader, Anne, began delegating tasks. “Jane, could you look after baths and be around to listen?” “And, Helen, could you and John carry on doing sandwiches?” Jane nodded. “Thanks, Jane, I’m sure they’re appreciated.”

Halfway through the morning, a man who was obviously new to St Philip’s paused on the threshold, then crossed tentatively to the counter. Jane watched him as she dried up mugs. His face was pale and pinched, his chin covered in grey stubble. He looked to be in his forties, though Jane had learnt that those who came here were often much younger than appearances would suggest. She let him settle with his tea and sandwiches, then approached the table with her own mug and smiled encouragingly. He looked up at her. “Are you from round here, Mike?” “No, I’ve come down from Manchester.” “Do you have a place to stay?” “No, I slept rough last night.” “Where were you?” There were, Jane knew, a few places in the town where rough-sleepers could bed down for the night, without being disturbed by drunken youths intent on kicking the hell out of the defenceless. Those sleeping rough tried to find a quiet dry place where they could be left alone to get what sleep they could on the street. “I was so cold last night,” Mike told her; “I found one of those big wheelie bins and I slept in that.” He paused, laughed nervously and then added “Actually, I’m lucky to be alive. I woke up on the back of a dustcart. It gave the dustman a fright I can tell you!” Jane had seen their own huge rubbish bins being wheeled out onto the platform of the dustcart, then raised...
and tilted to fling their contents into the back of the cart. The grinding noise of the compressor always alarmed her. The idea that this man had narrowly escaped being crushed by it made her feel quite sick. “How are you feeling now?” Jane asked, watching his hand tremble as he picked up his mug. “A bit shaky still,” Mike admitted, and then drank the last of his tea.

“I’m not surprised. It must have been a terrible shock.” He nodded. “I won’t sleep in one of those again.” “How are your feet?” Jane enquired. She had noticed him limping when he’d come up to collect a plate of sandwiches. “They’re a bit sore. I walked from London yesterday. I tried hitching but no one wanted to stop. I wouldn’t mind soaking them for a bit.” When Mike had finished his tea and sandwiches, Jane took him upstairs. She brought a bowl of water and gently removed his shoes. They were tight. His feet were swollen, his socks were bloodstained and dirty. They gave off the dank sweet-sour smell that went with one who had not removed them for many days. “I’m sorry”, Mike began, clearly embarrassed. “That’s all right”, Jane assured him as she dropped the socks in the bin reserved for discarded clothing. “I’ll go and get you some clean ones.” She paused on the threshold. How long, she wondered, was it since he’d had a bath. “Would you like a bath?” “Are you sure it’s all right?” “Yes of course, I’ll run one for you.” Jane fetched clean clothes from the store and left him to wallow in the hot sud. After he had bathed, Jane dressed his blistered feet and whilst she did so Mike talked.

He had been unemployed for eighteen months. He was a skilled man, but there had been many redundancies at the factory where he had worked since leaving school. Mike was not alone. More than a third of the families on their estate were in the same boat. Things had gone from bad to worse. The tensions of mounting debts and no means to pay them had resulted in long and bitter quarrels with his wife. She had remained behind in Manchester with their two boys while he had come south to try and find work. It was a last desperate attempt to hold the family together. “If I can’t get work here, I’ll just have to go back home”, he concluded. “You’ll need somewhere to stay while you’re looking”, Jane said. “We can get you an appointment with a resettlement agency. Would you like to do that?” Mike nodded. “I’ll get Anne to phone while you have some lunch.” “Thank you.” By the time Mike had eaten his lunch, he began to look a little better. He seemed more relaxed and his face had lost the drawn look he’d had when he’d first entered the hall. It was time now for him to go for his appointment. “Thanks Jane”, he said, then turned and thanked the rest of the team. “I didn’t know there were places like this”, Mike said as she escorted him to the door.

So far, since he’d been on the road, Mike had found few places where he could get food, clothing and a bath without cost. “Who provides all this?” he asked. “The churches in the town give food and clothing and send volunteers”, Jane told him. “I think it’s great”, Mike said. “There should be more of these places.” They said goodbye. Jane watched him go, offered up a prayer for him, then went back into the hall and began wiping down tables with unusual vigour. If this were a truly caring society, there should not be any need for places like St. Philip’s. Mike had come here to their Centre after literally being reduced to human refuse by a world driven by greed, power and selfish ambition. He had left them with at least a measure of dignity restored. He’d been fed, bathed and clothed. He had gone out from here with the knowledge that there were still some people in this world who cared. Jane realised it was unlikely that she would ever see Mike again. She hoped all would go well for him. She wished they could have done more: found him a job and a way out of this slough of despond in which so many found themselves. They had done their best to ease Mike’s burden and the many others who passed through the Centre. And then the words, spoken 2000 years ago by the one who had lived among the poor, fed the hungry, befriended the outcast and offered rest to the weary, reverberated in her head: *In as much as you did this for these the least of my brothers, you did it for me.* Jane was, for a while at least, at peace.

**Pat Westwell**

**January Gardening Notes**

The start of another gardening year and although we have had to endure the pandemic, it has encouraged a lot of people into gardening who otherwise would never have done so. December was such a wet month that not a lot was done outside. However I have got my propagator out and will sow onions and leeks, as they have a long growing season. You could sow broad beans and sweet peas but I think the later sowings seem to catch up with them. Hopefully we will get some fine weather in January so that I can get outside and keep things tidy by cutting down perennials and clearing leaves that may be covering emerging plants. I love snowdrops and February used to be the month for them but here we are in January with them in flower along with hellebores and primroses. With a lot of the top growth removed from the borders it is a good time to remove weeds and give the ground a top dressing of compost.

The vegetable garden is saturated, so I try not to walk on it, as it really compacts the soil. However, you can cover the ground with polythene or cloches to warm up the soil. Keep removing yellowing leaves from kale, cabbage and brussels and put them on the compost heap. If you want some early tender stems, cover your rhubarb plants to encourage that early growth. Now is a good time to check over your gardening equipment by cleaning down spades, forks, trowels, hoes etc, sharpening and oiling secateurs and maybe getting your lawn mower serviced.

I grow quite a few different kinds of ferns (*see photo*). Another plant that is easy to grow, and can be grown in shade or full sun. The only thing that will affect them is a covering of snow which tends to break all the stems. I cut them right down just before the new stems start to grow around March time.

**Andy Hanna**
During the November lockdown we were occupied with our regular jobs on the farm, some fencing work, and winter feeding of the sheep and cows with hay and haylage. We were also keeping a close eye on two of our Highland cows due to calve. The first task of a day would be early morning checks on the cows in the semi-darkness as the days became shorter and shorter. One of the cows (named Lyn) started showing signs she was starting to calve on a beautiful sunny late afternoon. We then began monitoring her closely to see how she was progressing. We rarely have to intervene with the Highlands’ calving and have been fortunate that we haven’t needed any veterinary assistance for calving in the time we have been breeding them. On this occasion it was clear that the birth was not progressing as fast as we would have liked, so we decided to walk Lyn from the fields under the moor down to the farm. It was dark by now and a beautiful evening with a frost forming fast. Once Lyn was in the barn we got her into the cattle race and John examined her, finding that one of the calf’s legs was stuck and bent backwards. It was a struggle but John managed to bring both legs forward and then we tied ropes around the legs, with John and Nick pulling together using all their strength to get the calf moving. Unfortunately the calf was stillborn, which was a very sad and disappointing result from such an eventful evening. Three days later, however, our sadness was turned to joy as the second cow Edwina gave birth to a beautiful heifer calf with no problems. We have named her November and she is in the field that runs along Chertpit Lane if you want to see her for yourself. She’s very cute and a local photographer has taken some wonderful photos of her!

On to the sheep: our rams have been running with the ewes since mid-November. One of the rams we purchased this autumn, so we are keen to see what lambs he produces and hope that he will have done his job! We leave the rams out for a month before bringing them down to the farm and applying the colourful raddle mark on their chest and belly. We then put the rams back to the ewes to work again. Our hope is that during the first month the ram will have successfully served the ewes so they will be in lamb and due to give birth in April. Any colourful markings that appear on the backs of the sheep during the second month will indicate that they should be in lamb to give birth in May. We always ultrasound scan the flock in a couple of months to find out for sure whether the rams have done what we wanted them to do! This scan also allows us to mark the ewes with different colours so we know if they are expecting a single lamb, twins or triplets.

On December 4th we had our first snowfall of the winter. The landscape turned a beautiful bright white colour for a couple of days, and while it looked stunning it certainly has left the land in a very wet condition. We are hoping for some dry, crisp weather to harden the fields up. Prolonged wet weather isn’t great for livestock, particularly the sheep, who do not thrive in the damp.

Finally, we have been aware that there has been some strange activity going on, with gates and fields being opened and accessed without permission of the landowner. A couple of weeks ago a local dog walker reported to us a field gate being forced open that is always usually shut. On investigation we found vehicle tracks and followed the path. The vehicle had been through several fields until they met a locked gate where they must have turned back. The fact they left the gates open is worrying as it puts livestock at risk and shows lack of care for the countryside. Derbyshire police have informed us that there has been illegal poaching activity around, so it’s possible this was the motive. If you see anything unusual or suspicious, please report it or contact the farmer if you see anything of concern.

John and Joanna Shimwell
Dear All,

Well, here we are in January, the first month of a New Year, 2021!

I expect like me you have a sense of relief that 2020 is now behind us. I know that there are those who have put this in somewhat stronger terms. I have heard things said to me like: I shall be glad to see the back of 2020!... 2020 has been an annus horribilis... 2020 has been a truly awful year...

I do sympathise with the force of the sentiment behind such words but should 2020 be damned and dismissed so easily?

I’m not at all sure that it should. We have learnt so much in 2020 about ourselves and others. We have learnt about what really matters in life and have found goodness and beauty around us in ways that we have not seen before. We have learnt what it means to truly care and what it is to serve others for the common good. For many of us, although by no means all, we have learnt what it is to live less complicated lives.

For those who try and live a life of faith, 2020 has been an extremely testing one as we try and reconcile an evil virus (COVID-19) with a God of love. Yet even this struggle can be a fruitful one leading to a deeper trust.

Christians believe that God, through all our struggling, continues to hold his creation in the palm of his hand. I’m always a little bit reticent when people confess to me, rather apologetically, that their faith is a simple one. Perhaps it shouldn’t be so simple. Think of the great figures in the Bible: Jacob struggling with God by the River Jabbok and Job in his terrible suffering. These two Old Testament figures show us that faith can be strengthened rather than diminished through adversity. Faith is inevitably costly. For faithful Christians 2020 has at least taught us this.

So we can now look to a New Year with hope. There is much that is exciting with regard to the production and roll out of the vaccines thanks to the wonders of science and scientists. The days will get lighter. Spring, although seemingly far off, will eventually come. The gloom will lift, the birds will sing again and the trees and the flowers will blossom once more. Our hopes and longings will, after all, once again be realised.

With every blessing,

James

Snippets

• We have been able to do some English change ringing on handbells at various locations around St Giles including under the yew tree and in the church porch area. It has been interesting to see the reactions of those who have passed by during our live performances. Several people have commented on how lovely the sound has been. Thank you to the yew tree and the porch for providing necessary cover especially when it has been raining!

• Thank you to all who helped make Christmas work for us, to those who decorated the church and to those who led the services over the festive period.

• Last month on Sunday December 6th Jenny and I celebrated our Ruby wedding anniversary. In the afternoon we managed to have a celebratory Zoom tea party with our now grown up children. Thank you to all who congratulated us.

James Croft  01629 640257
jamescroft80@gmail.com

Obituary

Alan Trevor Prince

Trevor died at Chesterfield Royal Hospital on Sunday 8th November aged 83 years. The funeral service took place on Thursday 26th November at St. Giles, Great Longstone followed by a committal in the churchyard.

For many years Trevor was a regular member of the church family at St. Giles. He will be very sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers go to all the family at this sad time.

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January in the Garden

**Lawns:** Continue aeration treatment. Repair turf if weather is favourable. Prepare top dressing for spring use.

**Roses:** Continue planting in favourable conditions. Firm in bushes loosedened by wind. Prepare ground for new planting in February and March.

**Herbaceous plants:** Cut dead tops off non-shrubby plants from borders. Fork over surface of soil between plants. Apply organic mulch.

**Dahlias:** Examine stored tubers. Cut away rotted portions of tubers and dust with flowers of sulphur.

**Chrysanthemums:** Under glass take cuttings of large exhibition varieties. Control aphids.

**Sweet peas:** Dress beds prepared for planting with hydrated lime. Under glass sow seed in gentle heat.

**Trees and shrubs:** Winter prune wisterias. Cut back young shoots within three inches of old wood. Thin out dead and deceased branches from established trees and shrubs.

**Fruit:** Inspect stored fruit, discarding any rotted and diseased fruit. Continue pruning. Burn prunings. Check stakes and ties. Continue spraying with winter wash. Take gooseberry and blackcurrant cuttings.

**Vegetables:** Plant rhubarb and spread strawy manure over each plant. Cover established crowns similarly. Cover plants with boxes to encourage early growth.

**General tasks:** Order seeds, onion sets, gladioli, garden sundries, weedkillers and fertilisers. Send mowers, shears and cultivators for sharpening and servicing.

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Mike's Fresh Fish Meunière

Meunière sounds exotic, but it just means 'as cooked by the miller's wife'. This simple but absolutely delicious dish classically uses Dover sole, but the recipe works equally well with trout or sea bass, or with cheaper alternatives such as lemon sole, plaice and dab. Mike's fillets are boneless and he will also skin them if you don't like eating it.

2 fillets plaice, sole, dab, trout or sea bass

1 tbsp flour

½ tsp salt

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 tbsp oil

50g butter

Juice of 1 lemon

1 tbsp capers (optional)

Sprinkle the flour on a chopping board together with the salt and pepper. Dip both sides of the fillets in the seasoned flour so that they are well coated.

Pour the oil into a thick frying pan over a medium to high heat. When hot, fry skin side down for two minutes, then turn and fry the top for a further one to two minutes.

Remove the fish and keep warm, then melt the butter until foaming and starting to turn colour. Add lemon juice (and capers if using) and reduce for 30 seconds to thicken slightly before pouring over the fish.

Garnish optionally with parsley, and serve with green beans and baby new or sautéed potatoes.

---

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

**Services in January**

- **3rd January - Christmas 2**
  - 9.00am Said Eucharist (Wardlow)
  - 11.00am Morning Service (St. Giles)

- **10th January - Baptism of Christ**
  - 11.00am Said Eucharist (St. Giles)

- **17th January - Epiphany 2**
  - 9.00am Morning Service (Wardlow)
  - 11.00am Said Eucharist (St. Giles)

- **24th January - Epiphany 3**
  - 11.00am Said Eucharist (St. Giles)

- **31st January - Epiphany 4**
  - 11.00am Said Eucharist (St. Giles)

**Note:** All services are subject to the Government’s National Restrictions; social distancing means that no more than 33 people are allowed in church.

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Wed 7am - 6.30pm
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Closed: Bank Holidays from 1.30pm
Whitworth Hospital Opening Times:
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X-Ray: Mon 9am - 5pm
Tues-Fri 9am - 12.30pm
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Please collect prescriptions (allow three working days) and leave samples at the side window near the back door, between 8am and 5pm.
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Phones: Mon-Fri 8am – 6.30pm
Telephone Numbers:
Reception 01246 582216
District Nursing Team 01332 564900
Health Visitor 01629 816633
Surgery Fax 01246 583867
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What’s On
10th March - Great Longstone Parish Council meeting
12th May - Great Longstone Parish Council Annual meeting
Contact Sarah Stokes for further details of these meetings:
☎ 01629 640851 or email parishcouncil@greatlongstone.org
Messy Church has been suspended until further notice.

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A Note From The Editor
Thank you to everyone who submits material for publication and especially our regular contributors. Enquiries and submissions should be sent to: editor@undertheedge.net
Please include your name and contact details. The copy deadline for the next issue is 5pm on:

Thursday 21st January
Photos should preferably be at least 1MB (1500x1500 pixels) and in colour. Printed photos should be scanned at 300 or 600 dpi. We can scan material if you do not have access to a scanner.
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All back issues available on our website www.undertheedge.net

Village Shop New Year Hours
Open Thursday 31st December 9.30-3, then closed until Tuesday 5th January.

Doughology Pizzas
During January and February, the Old Eyre Arms Pizza Trailer will only open Fridays and Saturdays (from 15th Jan).

Peak Park Survey
Help set the policy for the future of our National Park by completing the survey online by February 7th at peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/policies-and-guides/the-local-plan.

Grants Available
Small grants for community groups of up to £1,000 are available from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Vulnerability Fund. More information can be found at derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/Finance-and-Grants/Grants/Vulnerability-Fund.aspx or you can call 01629 812154. NB: Applications must be in by February 1st.

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The two other siblings to Pam Mason’s beautiful robin shown in last month’s UTE
This ‘Abominable Snowman’ (photo from 1996) dreamt in vain of a white Xmas
After years of patchy potholes, Station Road residents enjoy an early Xmas present as their road is resurfaced.
Zoe and Bill McGregor with afternoon teas for WI widows during lockdown
The ghoulies were evicted from Holly Lodge for Santa to set up his elf factory

Round and About

Doughology Pizzas at The Crispin Inn
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Help set the policy for the future of our National Park by completing the survey online by February 7th at peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/policies-and-guides/the-local-plan.

Grants Available
Small grants for community groups of up to £1,000 are available from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Vulnerability Fund. More information can be found at derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/Finance-and-Grants/Grants/Vulnerability-Fund.aspx or you can call 01629 812154. NB: Applications must be in by February 1st.

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