
UNDER THE EDGE

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

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WHERE ARE YOU - CLASS OF 57?

Were you in the junior class at Great Longstone school in 1957 – 58. If so can you spot yourself?

The photo was taken in what is now the play-group building and the names (in no particular order) are Pat Franks, Leslie Yates, Linda Jelly, John Shimwell, Margaret Davis, Linda Wood, Keith Adamson, Mrs McEwan, Mark Wright, Sheila Magraw, Mary Kenerly, June Franks, Robert Davis, David Fearn, Susan Hoare, Gillian Evans, Philip Lamb, Ivan Franks, David Sharratt, Christine Wager, Christine Carson (hope the name is right here), Margret Dolton, Stephen Wilson, Richard Bacon and David Slater. Many thanks for the photo and names to David Fearn, Somerset House Farm, Wardlow.

Farming Notes

You may have noticed some of the fields turning white just recently – this is because we have had some lime spreading done. To get the best out of your land, the PH. levels have to be maintained; some crops need higher levels than others - grassland about 6.5PH. You would think that on limestone land the levels would be high but, not so, as the rain leaches the nutrients away and, every few years, lime needs to be topped up. We try to lime a block of land every year and the dry frosty period we are

having is an ideal time to get on to the fields without damaging them with heavy machinery.

A call to the lime merchant brings a man with his soil testing kit. The fields are sampled to ascertain how much lime is needed (about two tons per acre). The following day lorries arrive with the powdered limestone and it's tipped in the yard. Soon afterwards, the contractor comes with his self-loading spreader, pulled by a powerful tractor – all on low ground pressure tyres as these avoid

damage to the land. Within a few hours the job's done – all part of my role as a farmer to keep the land in good fettle.

It's nice to see the days getting longer and to see the first signs of spring. It was amusing to see the geese mating in the little water troughs outside the farm, always one of the first signs we notice of spring on the farm.

Roger Cox

You Write

I see from 'Under the Edge' that there is debate in the village about the future of the village post office.

I note that you are urging people to contact me, and I would be very interested to know their views but, in the meantime, I thought it might be helpful to explain mine.

I have been concerned for some time now about rural post offices. The Government's decision to abolish payment of pensions and benefits through post offices removed a vital source of business from rural post offices, almost half in many cases. Since then the situation has deteriorated further. In the last year 547 sub post offices closed, 411 of those being in rural areas.

Even reports that £450m is to be spent over the next three years does not explain how these businesses are to be supported in the longer term, particularly as the Government's solution will not allow benefit recipients to receive payments in cash. It will be of no help to the people who depend on post offices if this money is simply swallowed up in redundancy payments for postmasters.

I feel that ministers have little idea of the realities of life in the countryside and how difficult and expensive it can be to make use of

even basic services. It has recently come to my attention that the Post Office itself seems to share in this ignorance of country life. Some village post offices in my constituency have been told that they must open at lunchtimes and half days, although the customers are happy with the existing arrangement. I really do not believe that people expect to be able to use their village post office like a 24-hour supermarket.

I will continue to urge the Government to make some firm decisions about the future of sub post offices. This uncertainty has been going on now for several years, and is very damaging for the future of post offices, and worrying for both post masters and the communities they serve.

On the specific points raised in UTE, I was shocked by the figures given for commission and have taken that up with the Government and with the Post Office. A few years ago I asked every post office in my constituency which were their biggest problems; they told me that the greatest single factor was the Post Office itself. Villages can sometimes find innovative alternatives to the traditional building dedicated to the Post Office, and I will also be seeking information on how to get advice on that.

Patrick McLoughlin MP

We were interested in the article about Gt Longstone P.O. when we purchased the UTE Magazine in the cafe at Monsall Head.

Twenty-five years ago Denise and I ran the PO with Denise's parents, Duncan and Doris Marshall. We left in 1977 to take over the office we now run. Duncan and Doris joined us 18 months later and helped out until their retirement. They have both passed away now but would never have

believed how insecure our future is. We remember the good times we had in the village when the PO was the centre of village life and a lot of work went into organising events from there.

The PO we now own is much larger than GL's and we employ five staff as well as ourselves to run it but our future is as insecure as Duncan's and Amanda's.

If we cannot keep customers coming through the door we will no longer be a viable business and like many other Post Masters and their families we will have to close up.

We remember Duncan as a boy running round the Crispin. Who would have thought in years to come we would both be in the same position.

Good luck to you Duncan and Amanda. We hope you will have a prosperous future

Yours sincerely

Alan & Denise Stickland

CONGRATULATIONS

On Sunday 9 February to
Clare and Philip Fearn
of Somerset House Farm,
Wardlow Mires, a daughter
Gemma Louise.

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Marilyn and a 3rd great
grandchild for Mabel)

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THREATS TO LONGSTONE EDGE -

My grandfathers
memorial will be
destroyed.

I have been extremely saddened to read of the proposals concerning Longstone Edge. There must come a time when the needs of the local community and the many thousands of people who have walked and looked upon Longstone edge come before the need for more stone, minerals or lead. A place named in the Doomsday Book should not be destroyed so easily. Even my 5-year-old granddaughter loves Longstone edge, as have many generations of her forebears.

I remember reading an article some years ago, which started like so "In a county rich in splendid views, two of the finest lie within the ecclesiastical parish of Longstone. One, very well known, is that sudden dramatic vista that you get from Monsal Head. The other, less well known but no less beautiful, covers from Longstone Edge a much broader sweep of country etc." The new proposal will see one disappear forever.

The issue is also a personal one for my family and myself. My grandfather George William BRIDGE died on Longstone Edge whilst working a drift. Family recollections say that Billy's father, John Bridge of Dale Farm, put up a stone on Longstone Edge. I have found a stone in the correct place and in line of sight of where Billy is buried in St. Giles (new) churchyard.

For our family, Longstone Edge will always be a special place and, for me personally, one that I will fight to keep. If it means this law-abiding "50-something" sitting in front of bulldozers, then so be it.

Possibly my mother, our family and myself have more reason than most to see Longstone edge obliterated by the mining operation. It was on Longstone Edge where my 28-year-old grandfather died; leaving a widow who was four months pregnant with twins and my mother who was 13 months old. No doubt, because of the trauma, only one of the twins survived. I never knew my



grandfather and the strain of bringing up two children on your own in those days led to my grandmother's death when I was 6 months old. All I do know is that, from a baby, I have visited St. Giles cemetery on many occasions to lay flowers on their grave.

To make matters worse the villagers were convinced (wrongly) that grandfather had taken his own life. Even in 2000, when I visited the village hall, a lady saw his photo and said "I remember Billy Bridge - he shot himself."

Billy with his brother Jack (John Richard) and George Pinder worked the quarry owned by my great grandfather, John Bridge. In those days the cart was loaded with gravel and then it would be taken to Hassop Station. Possibly only six cartloads a day were removed - some 6 tons. If there were jobs to be done on the farm - then no mining was done. On the day he died three cartloads had been taken to Hassop by Jack and George Pinder whilst Billy dug out another two tons of gravel. Then as he waited for the carts to return he decided to 'bag' a rabbit. The accident happened and my grandfather died of a gunshot wound to the head.

His father, my great grandfather John Bridge was devastated and he

purchased land in the new churchyard, nearest to the point where Billy died (top corner), he then put a stone up in line of sight between the grave and the place where Billy died.

From the information I was given I found the stone on Longstone Edge some years ago. Obviously I have no proof that this is the memorial to my grandfather. It could be a boundary stone. All that I can say is that it is shaped like a headstone and is in the correct place.

No doubt this will be of little interest to the company who wants to desecrate Longstone Edge as the faceless ones are only interested in the 'mighty pound'. Much better for Longstone Edge to be under the Tarmac of a motorway.

I believe that there has to be a balance between the working needs of the people in the National Park and that of people who love the beauty of the area. My family farmed in the area for at least two hundred years. Related families still do. Many other areas of the Peak have been quarried to death. If Longstone Edge goes and others follow, will thousands of visitors still come to see big holes or even worse - land-fill sites? I think the answer is definitely NO.

Steve Morse

Blue-Box Dilemma

In this day of environmental awareness and, to quote Derbyshire Dales District Council, "Reduce refuse - recycle it".

I was very pleased therefore when last year we received a leaflet stating that a blue-box recycling scheme for bottles & also waste-paper would come into operation for all households later on in the year.

I was so excited by this news (yes sad life I lead I know!) that I immediately phoned up DDDC & laughed at them. You see I and my fellow residents of Sunny Bank have never had a waste paper collection yet. When this scheme was set up I enquired why we didn't qualify for a waste paper collection. The answer was that to make it financially viable the collection vehicle has to have a minimum of 20 houses to go to and we only have 17 houses on Sunny Bank. So much for the environment! But, yes, you could argue we could take our waste-paper bags down to the bottom of the bank, but for older people that would be an impossible task, plus who would collect the empty bags that would be left at the bottom of the bank before the wind blew them everywhere. But DDDC assured me that we would now be on the collection list and to further assure me they even sent out 2 waste-paper bags. So it was an excited householder put her first waste-paper

collection bag out, went to work, and guess what - I came home to find that it hadn't been collected. Phoned up DDDC to tell them what had happened and whoops I got left off the list but it wouldn't happen again. Well, to cut a very long story short, it does keep happening but, yes, sometimes they do come and collect my paper.

So you can imagine my delight and thoughts of holding a street party to celebrate, but glad we hadn't gone to the expense of this as subsequent events would have made it pointless. When I noticed blue boxes popping up in local villages & all of a sudden they arrived one day in Longstone, but not all of Longstone, guess who didn't get one, (plus Spring Bank and I suspect quite a few other places). I enquired at Bakewell town hall, only to be told that they would forward my request for a box to the appropriate department and a box would soon be winging its way to us. Bet you can't guess what happened next. Yes that's right we didn't get one.

Then in a passing conversation with a local parish councillor, who was also trying to get blue boxes for the area he lives in, I was told that the collection vehicle could get up the bank to collect the glass and paper. Strange isn't it that the refuse lorry can manage to get up here every week.

So again I went to Bakewell to be told "Well, of course, you won't get a blue box as you don't have a waste-paper collection." So I very carefully explained that we do have a waste paper collection.

I regularly pop into Bakewell now just to tell them that I am still waiting for a blue box and have not had a proper explanation from on high as to why we are not allowed this facility.

And as a footnote I do know that there are bottle banks in the village, which are regularly surrounded by empty bottles, as the bins do not seem to be able to cope with the amount of bottles. And I do not want to add mine to a potential display for either vandals to use or a Tate Modern Display

C M Briggs

If you are one of the families throughout the area who don't get a recycling box - do as Carolyn has done and keep on asking - they may just change their minds.

CONDOR PASS CHALLENGE, PERU - THIS MAY

In January I was invited to take part in a sponsored trek in aid of the Deafness Support Network, otherwise known as the Cheshire Deaf Society.

Before coming back to Great Longstone I was involved as an architect with a couple of building projects for the Society. One was the adaptation of a terraced house in Northwich for those with hearing difficulties, and the other was an extension at their head office, also in Northwich.

I immediately plumped for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to face the challenge of walking at high altitude in the Peruvian Andes for a charity that I know well. It is scheduled to take place in the first half of May with the chance of reaching 18,000 feet, (5,500 metres), with plummeting overnight temperatures of around -15 degrees centigrade!

Deafness Support Network have agreed that any additional money raised beyond the minimum amount sought by the charity can be collected for another charity.

I have chosen Edale Mountain Rescue as the second charity. Edale Mountain Rescue operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and makes no charge for its invaluable service in rescuing people who find themselves lost or in difficulties while taking part in outdoor pursuits such as climbing, hiking, hang gliding etc. as well as rescuing livestock. E.M.R. is seeking funds towards the construction of a new purpose-made building in the Bamford area for the storage of rescue equipment and vehicles, training and meeting rooms. This project is likely to cost around £300,000.

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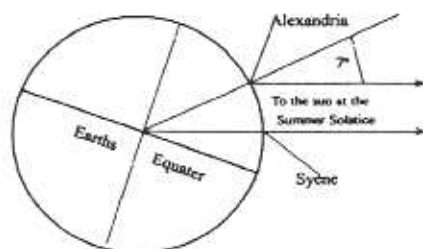
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Any contribution, however small, towards the fund-raising of my madcap challenge will be very much appreciated, but there are available two versions of the sponsorship forms together with Gift-Aid Declaration Forms, one for the Deafness Support Network and the other for Edale Mountain Rescue Team, at Casey's Shop in Great Longstone. (The use of a Gift-Aid Declaration Form means that either charity can benefit a further additional 28 pence for every £1 it receives providing that you are a UK taxpayer.)

(Please note that I will bear the cost of the trek that is due to the travel company.)

Hugh Wright

Size of the Earth



One of the first measurements of the earth's size was made by Eratosthenes in the 3rd century BC. He knew that the midday sun was directly overhead at Syene at the summer solstice as he measured its altitude at Alexandria, which is due north of Syene. He found the altitude of the sun was $1/50^{\text{th}}$ of a complete circumference south of the vertical above Alexandria. (i.e. 83 degrees). He knew the distance, in stadia, between Syene and Alexandria, therefore the circumference of the earth was 50 times that distance. The principle used was perfectly sound but it is difficult to assess the accuracy of his measurements, as we are not aware of the exact value for the stadia used. It has been estimated that his error may have been as little as 1% or as large as 20% dependent on which stadia he used.

F.E.Smith

Marriage In Church After Divorce

Rev. Clive Thrower writes

Last year the General Synod of the Church of England confirmed its teaching on marriage as a "solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman"; but also recognised that some marriages regrettably do fail and that the Church's care for couples in that situation should be of paramount importance. It also rescinded the exhortation to clergy not to use the marriage service in the case of anyone who had a former partner still living, and decided that there are circumstances in which a divorced person may be married in church during the lifetime of a former spouse.

The decision as to whether or not to solemnise such a marriage in church after divorce rests with the minister (or officiating cleric if the minister is prepared to allow his/her church or chapel to be used for the marriage). The bishops have offered general advice to clergy based on the current practice in Derby Diocese. The diocesan bishop may only offer advice in particular cases (if sought by the local clergy) and may not stop a marriage in church if agreed by the local clergy. That advice and clergy notes have to be kept on file and available for inspection under the Data Protection Act. Conversely, the conscience clause for clergy is maintained and the local clergy person may refuse to marry a divorcee and may refuse the use of their church too. However, clergy may not refuse to read banns of marriage where one of the parties is a divorcee.

The main elements of the advice to clergy are:

1. Do the parties have a clear understanding of the meaning and purpose of marriage and that one of them is open to the Gospel teaching?
2. Has there been adequate grieving over the past relationship such that the wounds of the past do not get carried into the new relationship?
3. Has there been adequate and completed settlement of properties and specially of responsibilities and access where there are children involved?
4. Would the marriage cause a scandal in the community were it to proceed? (To this end I agreed with the PCC that I would in every case consult the churchwardens in confidence)
5. Was the new relationship the cause of the breakdown of the first marriage?
6. In any case of a second divorce great care would be needed such that the Church was not seen to be endorsing 'serial monogamy'.

I have operated for 15 years this procedure for assessing the appropriateness of conducting the marriage of a divorcee with a former partner still living. It is tried and tested and I do not think it has been abused by couples or clergy. Of the 14 marriages currently booked for this year across the Ashford, Sheldon and Longstone churches, four are of divorcees.

Hoping to move...

I have lived in a neighbouring parish for 20 years but now wish to move, preferably to Great Longstone. If you are considering moving in the next 12 months, I would be delighted to hear from you. I am seeking a 3-bedroom home of any characteristic - no chain is involved. Please contact me, Sally Kehr on 01629 815864 for, hopefully, mutually beneficial outcome.

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Some Answers to the Post Office problem

On 19th February, Great Longstone Parish Council hosted a public meeting to discuss the future of the post office in Longstone. A Rural Transfer Advisor from the Post Office, Mr Nick Collings, attended and most of the half-hour meeting was a presentation by him, outlining possible options to retain a PO service in the village.

To open, Mr. Collings thanked Duncan and Amanda for their efforts over the past few years and expressed regret that they had decided to leave.

The first point he made was that the closure programme we read about in the newspapers relates to urban offices and the PO's policy regarding rural branches is to do their utmost to keep them open. Contrary to the plans for urban offices, the PO is committed to a programme of support for rural offices until at least 2006. The Post Office has a £2m pot of money available for grants to reopen closed offices and to prevent offices closing. The government has promised £450m over the next three years to support the rural post office network.

Mr. Collings then outlined some of the difficulties rural branches were facing: falling incomes, from both PO and associated retail outlets; lack of local support; soaring property prices making the owning of a post office and/or small shop uneconomic.

However, there are alternatives to a post office in the conventional sense, and Mr. Collings mentioned replacement post offices reopening in such diverse locations as (converted!) public toilets, stables, bomb shelters, pubs, village halls and tea rooms. Even if it is not possible

or feasible for a replacement office to open for 'normal' hours, the Post Office would still support a reopening of branch that provided a 'part-time' service. Mr. Collings emphasised that the Post Office tried to be as flexible as possible and the priority was to get at least some service back to the area. The Post Office regards any closure of an office as temporary for at least 12 months and probably won't regard the branch as 'dead and gone' for 18 months.

About 15 members of the public attended the meeting and several questions were asked of Mr Collings after his presentation. The most heartening was "when an office closes, how good is the PO at getting a replacement up and running?". Mr Collings replied that in the area he covered (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire) he had only two failures in continuing a post office service of some sort following a closure, and these were due to planning permission for the new Office being refused.

The expected closure date for Great Longstone Post Office is 20th April, although the longer term future of the Office still hangs in the balance. Things may work out but, meanwhile, if anyone would like to speak to Mr. Collings, in confidence, he can be contacted on 07801 092134 or nick.collings@royalmail.com.

Chris Raynor

The P.C meeting opened at 7:30, with Cllr. Cox in the chair and all councillors present. The minutes were approved, with one matter arising: DDDC Cllr. Mrs. Crowther queried whether the property name on a planning application approved last month was correct. Apparently, it isn't, but the incorrect name had been on the paperwork from the PPPB.

There were two planning applications to consider: the first was for a new barn at Whitehouse Farm, Wardlow. This triggered a lot of debate about whether the site was in fact in the parish and whether the Parish Council should be passing judgement on the application when it may fall under the area dealt with by Wardlow Parish Meeting. However, as the PPPB had asked for a decision, one had to be made.

Eventually it was resolved to refuse the application mainly on the grounds that it should be Wardlow's decision but also that in the PC's opinion the building was not acceptable. The second - equally contentious - application was for the development of a car park at The Paddock, Station Road. Apparently this is the first part of a plan to open a specialist plant nursery on the site. Two letters from parishioners opposed the application, mainly on the grounds that it would increase traffic congestion and may be 'the thin end of the wedge'. The PC also had severe reservations about this scheme; as well as the increased traffic, the PC felt that the entrance to the car park would be unsafe and that vehicles would be parked on Station Road itself, making the existing situation even worse. The Council were unanimously opposed to the application. Finally, it was noted that the planning application for a change of use at the post office, Great Longstone, has been withdrawn. This initiated a discussion about the future of the post office. Cllr. Finney declared an interest and pointed out that the fundamental problem was a lack of local support. No business can be expected to keep going if it has insufficient customers. However, he welcomed the Council's efforts to try to keep some sort of post office active in the village. It was proposed to hold an extra Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter, but it was decided that it was too early to start planning for alternatives. The existing premises may yet be sold as a going concern.

Three planning application approvals were noted: an extension at 3, Edge View Drive and the revisions of the plans for Iona, Longreave Lane to sanction the current situation and to add rooflights.

The bank balances were noted as £1,000 in the current account and

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only £205.02 in the deposit account, though £2,700 of grants have recently been received from DDDC and £1,900 in reclaimed VAT. The results of the PC's annual audit have been received and the auditors are happy with the accounts. So the accounts can now be made public and copies are available from the Clerk To The Parish Council at The Print Room (£5 each) or they can be inspected upon request (free).

It was reported that the commemorative plaque had been inserted into the wall of West Green, and so an official opening ceremony would be organised, probably in April. An offer to mark out the allotment plot boundaries properly had been received, and this was accepted. On the tennis court, no progress has been made as two of the contractors have still not provided quotes. However, it was felt best not to actively pursue this issue until the Sports Action Group's plans became clearer. In the short term, professional advice regarding the safety of the court will be sought. Cllr. Fawcett reported that the Sports Action Group had met on Monday and matters were progressing slowly. The Chairman read out a letter from a resident adjacent to the recreation ground that expressed opposition to having the proposed new playing area so close to several houses.

The dispute over payment for filling the salt bin on Grisedale Road continues... DCC are emphatic that the Parish Council should pay £45 and the PC are equally emphatic that they have never paid before, and why should they start now? As (hopefully) winter is now nearly over it was resolved to remove the PC-owned bin and ask DCC to supply a replacement

bin. Thus DCC would be responsible for keeping it filled in future.

Cllr. Finney expressed his disgust that, despite another visit by the engineers, the new street light on Station Road was still not working. It wasn't clear whether PC have already paid for this light, as the project was initiated before the present clerk took office! This would be checked for the next meeting. Cllr. Finney suggested that, after the light was finally working, payment should be delayed for as long as it had taken to get it working.

Cllr. Hirst reported that the Christmas tree lights, being 20+ years old, had come to the end of their life and there had been difficulties getting them to work at all last Christmas. It was resolved to obtain a replacement set for this Christmas, and some quotes would be sought. On a related subject, the police were not happy about the number of people attending the Christmas Eve carol service around the tree. An officer attending felt the event would require road closures in future, on safety grounds. This would make the event infeasible, as the costs of a road closure would be considerable.

Correspondence; 26 items, only a few were discussed in detail. It was noted that the parish and district elections take place on 1st May this year. The Derbyshire Village of the Year competition has been cancelled due to the sponsors - Derbyshire Building Society - pulling out. A letter from a parishioner proposed an 'Adopt a Road' scheme (very popular in the US, apparently) which involves people taking responsibility for keeping a stretch of road clear of litter. The PC thought this was a good idea and Cllr. Mrs. Gregory volunteered to coordinate this. Following the report last month of the PC's response to a questionnaire about potential public transport improvements, two letters of objection to the number 4 bus being rerouted via Longreave and Beggarway Lanes have been received. The PDNPA have informed the PC that repointing work will be carried out on the skew railway bridge in a few weeks. This will involve traffic lights and single-lane traffic for a couple of weeks.

The next meeting is 19th March, at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

Chris Raynor

Adventures in Aussie

Mary Lorains from Little Longstone and the smiley face at the post office since last summer, is currently doing a bit of travelling before going to University this September. Here are some extracts from her emails

We have been to the beach, which was stunning, the sand was bright white and the sea was crystal clear. We were trying to fit in with the locals by getting a couple of body boards. Caught a few waves, but didn't quite look as natural as everyone else as my biggest worry was watching out for the sharks!!!

Byron Bay is a great improvement on Newcastle (the sunny one!). We only ended up staying there one night as it reminded me of Blackpool too much.

We are hoping to book some trips tomorrow to Fraser Islands and Hervey Bay, which sound amazing.

From Fraser Island:

Hope everyone is OK in snowy England!

Been on Fraser Island the last few days. It is the largest sand island in the world!

It was raining last week, but it soon brightened up when we arrived at Fraser Island. It was 40 degrees C and clear skies. Mackenzie is a large fresh-water lake surrounded by beaches and palm trees; we floated down Eli Creek, a sand-filled river entering the sea where we sat in bubbling champagne pools filled with tropical fish. We have never seen anywhere so beautiful.

We camped on the beaches with 7 other people from different countries, so communication was difficult but worth the experience. (We were also surrounded by dingoes, crabs, parrots, turtles and many sharks resulting in our not being able to swim in the sea!!!)

Take care.

Love Mary

Patrick McLoughlin Your Member of Parliament

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Longstone Parish Magazine March 1903

The Special period of the Church's year, which is termed Lent, has come round again, and it is well considered and well used will help to strengthen the desires of self-conquest and of self-abasement. Nothing is more clear from Scripture and nothing more certain from daily experience than the duty of self-denial. This is the principle laid down in any suggestions about the observance of Lent. It is the power and willingness to give up something, whether it be an indulgence or whether it be a necessary of life. That is the idea of Lent. Self-mastery, and even self-chastisement. There is a call for Christian people to examine themselves, and see how things are. It is necessary to do this in matters of worldly business, it may be every day or every week, but certainly at stated periods. There is no vain superstition in that, but it is a matter of common prudence.

Let everyone then be persuaded and follow the directions of the Church, as founded upon Holy Scripture, and find out how best to make such a true test as profitable to salvation.

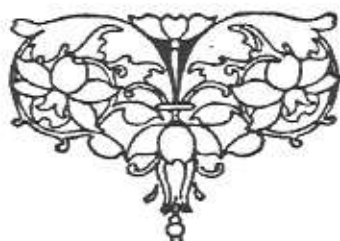
- (1) To do some kind acts to a relative or friend.
- (2) To watch and pray and fight against a besetting sin.
- (3) To seek the extension of true

religion and the return of the wanderers to the Church of Christ.

- (4) To pray for the Church, and see how we can help and defend her.
- (5) To consider prayerfully the prospect of eternity, and the need of a happy death

Baptism

Feb. 8 - George William, son of John and Ellen Bridge, of Great Longstone. (Editor's note - see page 3)



The Bells of St. Giles

On February the 14th at about 3.30pm I heard something that made me down tools and step outside - St. Giles Church bells were in full swing - it was a glorious peal celebrating the wedding of Clive's daughter.

I had not realised until I heard them that the bells have been silent for some time now.

So I asked Clive about the missing bells and it seems that they were overhauled last autumn and that a team is now meeting on the first and third Wednesday of the month for practice nights. So if you would like to join the team give Clive a telephone call on 01629 640 257

Lent Groups

The York Lent Course consists of 5 nationally known ministers giving audio tape introductions. The course booklets are available at £1.95 each. Please let Clive Thrower know if you intend to join or would like a booklet. Everyone is welcome. We shall meet on Tuesdays at 7.30pm as follows:

Date	Venue
March 11 th	St. Giles' Vestry
March 18 th	St. Giles' Vestry
March 25 th	Methodist Chapel
April 1 st	St. Giles' Vestry
April 8 th	Methodist Chapel

Celebration Buffet

To celebrate the completion (almost) of all the extensive work which has been done on and in St. Giles over the past year or so a buffet was laid on in the White Lion which was attended by a good number of folk all of whom had a good time. The work done includes major repairs to the clock, the bells, the roof and the installation of a new heating system. The heating system in particular was a tremendous task and occupied many, many hours of work by Alan Grant and Mike Hirst in particular and, in recognition of their efforts, they were each presented (much to their surprise) with a small gift as a token of the gratitude from everyone who loves the parish church. It has been suggested that another social 'get together' should be arranged without waiting for the heating system to have to be replaced again and that sounds to be a very good idea. Watch this space!

BANNER JONES MIDDLETON



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Packhorse diary and secrets.

As I write this it has been 73 days exactly since I moved into the Packhorse. I'm not really keeping track, honest, but it's true to say it has been a bit of a blur. But, keep it under your hat, not a soul has noticed, I'm sure! Apart from cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning, oh yes and the odd party or two that has culminated in speakers flying off shelves and people climbing on the settles to sing 'Sunshine Mountain' (don't ask), it has been pretty quiet. Ah, but then there was the Stella barrel that was dented and hissed alarmingly and I was sure was going to explode, someone who shall remain nameless running out of beer, a very nice lady called Sam, who probably never wants to see another dumpling, masses of good intentioned advice, the odd large dinner party or two (I say large, that means up to 20 people – have you seen the size of the dining room?!), microwaves that have hissed and died and a toilet cistern that showered me with water at 2 am – it has been pretty quiet.

I have loved the Packhorse since I moved to Great Longstone nearly three years ago, though it has to be said I never had a burning desire to have a pub. It just seemed a shame to let such an opportunity pass. I must confess when I told my mother that I was thinking of taking on the Packhorse she was actually speechless. Never before in my life have I known it – didn't last long either, but can we keep that a secret between you and me! Most of you probably know Sam Moore, who lives next door to the Packhorse and used to work here part time and in the post office too. Well with me still working with Simon at Healthjobsuk, I knew I would have to have someone to help me run the place and Sam was ideal. Apparently after a large quantity of gin and tonics one night I waved my hand at Sam and said, "Don't worry, it'll be a breeze". She's never let me forget it.....wonder why!

But what a fantastic experience it has been so far. Everyone has been so supportive and helpful, I have been overwhelmed by people's kindness and their genuine pleasure at seeing the Packhorse alive again. I would love to take the credit but my

conscience won't let me! Anyone who could have stepped in to help and, as one of the residents of Little Longstone said "Oh it's lovely, we've got our pub back again".

So here is my opportunity to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone who has given their time, advice or support, even if it's just to pop in and have a pint. Sam and Sean at the White Lion have been fantastic and so have the Crispin. Which reminds me, Robert, any time you miss your old glasses washer, you know where it is and it's just great, so thanks! The GL Post Office have also been terrific and it's handy to know I can get a barrel of Carling in Duncan's van in an emergency. But please don't tell anyone that either! Thanks to everyone who has stepped behind the bar to help out when it has been busy and also to Simon, who did a sterling job on New Years Eve and has been patient about how much time the Packhorse has taken up.

The staff here are the best and have all behaved straight away as if they are inviting people into their homes (okay, so it does still feel like someone's front room). But it seems to be showing in the number of people we have had through the door.

The Packhorse already feels like a village institute!

I can't believe Easter is nearly here, Ooh heavens, if I haven't got my head round the beer order by then I will be in trouble...bye for now,
All the best,
Catherine

Longstone PCC Jottings

The meeting was very much as was forecast in last month's UTE with no earth-shattering decisions. There is now a new notice board outside the Church of the Good Shepherd but the gates still await repair and it is hoped

that they will be done soon.

An approach is to be made to the council to discuss ways of preventing the accumulation of mud in the new churchyard lych gate and repairs to the church gutters have been started. It was decided not to have the grass cutting in any part of the churchyards delayed as an encouragement to wild life. The Annual Meeting to elect churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting both take place in church on Sunday 30th March at 7:30pm and 7:35pm respectively. Before these meetings there is the opportunity to have your name added to the church electoral roll by contacting Mrs. Judy Fraser-Smith before the 8th March. Her telephone number is 640478.

The next PCC meeting is on 10th March, having been brought forward from the 11th.

QUIZ NIGHT

You've asked for it!
Another quiz with a
difference

**Saturday March 1st
7pm**

at Wardlow Village Hall
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supper. Just a few places left.
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andrewbsharkey@man.com

Saving the Post Office Here's an idea.

If the post office closes we all lose. We lose the post office itself and one of our two remaining shops. We lose the convenience of having these facilities and we will probably lose a little bit on house values. (If not then why do estate agents always point out that we have a school and shops in the village.)

It is probably in no-one's interest to lose these facilities, but it is looking uneconomic for any one person to take them on. If we are all going to lose why don't we all be part of the solution?

What if we set up a company that buys the post office and then rents it out to a suitable person to run it as a business?

We would need to raise around £240,000 to £250,000 (maybe in £100 shares). Once set up the rent charged to the tenant could be fairly low, though enough to cover maintenance and repairs and running the company. The company would be run by a board elected by the shareholders. The shop and post office would be run by the tenant.

Shareholders would probably not be paid any dividends but the value of the company would basically be the value of the building, so, hopefully, should not depreciate.

Maybe set this up initially for a five year period and then review the situation. If it is working well, and investors are happy to leave their money tied up, it continues. If it is not working the company is wound up, the property sold and the money raised is divided amongst the shareholders.

Where do we go from here? If there is enough interest the best way forward is a public meeting. If you think that this might work can you telephone me during office hours on 640980 or put a note through my door with your name and telephone number. If there is enough interest I'll set up a public meeting.

Simon Headington

Heath Bank

Main Street

Waste problems

This letter was sent to the Parish Council who have asked UTE to publish it, it was thought to be an excellent idea and Councillor Josie Gregory has offered to co-ordinate the project. If you are interested in helping to keep the village and it's surrounding roads clear, please contact her on 640288

I would like to ask the PC to discuss the matter of sponsored litter clearing — like they do in the United States under the banner of 'Adopt A Highway.'

We all complain about litter but unless we pick it up it will not go away. I volunteer myself (and my family!) to adopt the stretch of Beggars Lane from the 'flooded bend' just below the GL Business Park to the first house in Hassop, the dwelling on the North side of the lane just before it descends into Hassop itself. I drive along this road most days so I can monitor the quantities of litter deposited.

I have cleared a large part of this stretch before. Last time I filled three

dustbin bags, mostly with white Spar carrier bags each containing empties — two or three cans of very strong lager and a quarter bottle of spirits. Many of these bags were rotting away, half buried in the drainage ditch on the North side of the lane. Sadly for us, the alcoholic litterbug is back again and I counted about 20 more Spar bags this morning, no doubt there will be more in the ditch and hedge etc. I will get these cleared away this month.

I will recycle the tins and glass (space in the bins permitting) in the village.

Dane Trezise-Hardinge

Edale Mountain Rescue Team

Two villagers are getting ready to celebrate birthdays and raise money for Edale Mountain Rescue Team (EMRT).

Colin Henson is celebrating his 70th birthday by undertaking a sponsored run on 10th May 2003 from Pooley Bridge, Ullswater to Greendale Bridge, Westwater in the Lake District. He will cover 50 miles and 19,000 feet of ascent in under 24 hours!

Mike Scawen, Secretary of Friends in High Places (FiHP) the support group of EMRT is undertaking a 1200 mile backpack from Lands End to John o' Groats from mid-April to mid-June 2003 to celebrate his 65th year. Colin and Mike aim to raise money for registered charity Edale Mountain Rescue Team. FiHP is a supporters group for Edale Mountain Rescue Team.

Please support our efforts and encourage us by sponsoring us either by mile or a total amount. Sponsor/donation forms will be in Casey's and Mellor's shops. **All donations** will go to Edale Mountain Rescue Team, Registered Charity Number 512559. Contact Mike Scawen 01629 640593 for details of FiHP or EMRT



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Sundays & Festivals

2 Mar Sun Sunday before Lent
 5 Mar Wed Ash Wednesday
 9 Mar Sun Lent 1
 16 Mar Sun Lent 2
 19 Mar Wed Joseph of Nazareth
 23 Mar Sun Lent 3
 25 Mar Tue Annunciation of Our
 Lord to the BVM
 30 Mar Sun Mothering Sunday

**Vicar The Reverend
 Clive Thrower
 Tel: 01629 640257**

March Services at St. Giles

2 Sun 8am Holy Communion
 11.15am Family Service
 6.30pm Evensong
 5 Wed 9.30am Longstone
 School Assembly
 10am Mothers' Union
 Holy Communion
 in the choir vestry
 7pm Sung Eucharist
 9 Sun 11.15am Sung Eucharist
 6.30pm Evensong
 16 Sun 8am Holy Communion
 11.15am Sung Family
 Eucharist
 6.30pm Evensong
 19 Wed 11am Holy Communion
 at Thornhill
 House
 23 Sun 11.15am Sung Eucharist
 6.30pm Evensong
 30 Sun 11.15am United Churches
 Service of Holy
 Communion
 6.30pm Evensong

March Services at Wardlow

2 Sun 9am Family Service
 16 Sun 9am Holy Communion

**Great Longstone
 Methodist Chapel
 Local Minister – Rev. N.
 Jones
 Tel: 812195**

2nd March 10.30 Mr. J Wilkin
 9th March 10.30 Mrs J Taylor
 16th March 10.30 Mr H Swindell
 23rd March 10.30 Revd. P Halliday
 30th March 11.15 United at the
 Parish Church

Steps into the past

Holme Hall in Bakewell, for those of you who don't already know, used to belong to the Parish of Great Longstone until the end of the 19th century when they altered the parish boundaries. This mainly Elizabethan house has parts dating back as far as the 15th century and is a grade 1 listed gem on our doorstep.

When Peter and Angela Hunt sold Thornbridge earlier last year, I decided to follow them, as they worked in a very thorough and historically correct manner, living with the place until enough concrete evidence was gathered in order to restore it to its absolute best. A place of such history holds many features now lost ... well not lost - shall we say misplaced.

For example, the old dismantled central garden staircase, similar in both looks and age to the one on the terraces at Haddon Hall, seems to be turning up all over the garden. We guess that the steps were dismantled in the 19th century and they are recorded in an 18th century sketch from the Bagshaw family archives (now in Sheffield records office): The sketch at first seems naive but on closer inspection is remarkably detailed and accurate. With the bits and pieces of the staircase relocated, we decided to put on our Time Team hats and dig a trench in search of more clues. Just two feet beneath the lawn we found the original foundations, so well preserved that we could measure the width and depth of the staircase and thus be able to calculate how many steps, as we still have an existing flight continuing the dismantled section up the garden.

It's early days yet but hopefully more and more pieces of the jigsaw will unearth, so as to eventually re-form this vital section of the 17th-century geometric garden backbone.

Alastair Slack

D.A. SLATER BUILDERS

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Great Longstone WI Report.

It was unfortunate that our last month's meeting had to be cancelled. Whilst some of our members were enjoying holidays in warm sunshine we were shivering in snow and frost with treacherous icy pavements not ideal conditions to be out at night. At the same time, our President, Bette Stephenson and Secretary, Mary Huxley were ill. Mary spent a few days in hospital and I am pleased to report she is out and about making good progress. Bette is still not well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

At our next meeting on Wednesday March 5th the speaker will be Julie McDonald, her subject "The Company of Cutlers and their Feasts". Tea Hostesses are Mrs Cumming and Mrs Cree. Mystery Parcel - Mrs Jean Salt.

On Wednesday March 26th the Spring Group meeting will be held at Over Haddon. The community bus is booked and names of those wishing to attend will be taken at our meeting on the 5th March. A reminder that subscriptions are due and the year's programmes need to be issued. Hopefully the weather will be kind so that we can ALL make up for last time. Next Meeting is Wednesday 5th March at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.
Bessie Hingley

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DIARY 2003

3rd Apr - Great Longstone Pre School Clothing Sale at The White Lion 7pm Adm £1

5th May - Plant Sale, Thornhill House.

17th - 24th May - St. Giles' Church Flower Festival

24th - 26th May - Flower Festival at Wardlow Church

12 July - Longstone Church Fete and Well Dressing

2nd - 3rd August - Great Longstone Art Show

23 August - Wardlow Well Dressing week starts.

April 12th

Wardlow are holding one of their very popular

Theme Evenings

'American'

for details telephone

Janet 01298 872091

Linda 01298 871647

Prim 01298 872745

Watch this space!

Easter Lilies at St. Giles' Church

If anyone would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, please could you contact Judy Fraser-Smith on 01629 640478 or any of the churchwardens.

Friends of Longstone School

Lottery winners February 2003

1st Mrs E Blackwell

2nd Suzanne Gregory

3rd Deborah Herbert

The school is collecting Nestle Box Top tokens, which have to be redeemed before 31st March 2003, Walker's Crisp tokens and also TESCO Computers For Schools tokens. Please forward any tokens to school, thank you. *Sally Kehr*

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March in the Garden by a Village Gardener

Vegetables

Plant early potatoes and sow broad beans, lettuce, spring onions, radish, early carrots and peas. Most brassicas such as Brussels sprouts and late summer cabbage and cauliflower.

Lawns

Re-seed worn areas. Aerate lawns with a wire rake. Apply a spring fertiliser. Cut the grass when 2 1/2 to 3 inches high. Control moss with moss killer.

Roses

Prune hybrid teas and floribundas. Repeat flowering climbers and repeat flowering shrub roses towards the end of the month.

Hardy Herbaceous Plants

If conditions are right, plant new plants and divisions and seedlings. Watch out for slugs in mild weather.

Dahlias

prepare ground for planting in full sun.

Chrysanthemums

Dig ground, leave rough until April or May

Gladioli

Plant corms, in succession 2 inches deep, for a continuous supply of blooms.

Shrubs

Prune by thinning out old wood from Berberis and Hypericum. Cut Fuchsia and Lavatera back to live wood.

General Tasks

Complete all digging. Kill weeds on paths and drives with a total weed-killer. Check all ties securing plants to stakes.

Fruit

Plant raspberries and strawberries. Spray apples, cherries, pears, plums and Damsons. Train new shoots of blackberries and loganberries on to wires.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Little Longstone

Congregational Chapel

Friday 7th March

at 7.30pm.

Leader - Mrs. Caroline Storr

Ashford Film Society : Sunday March 9th

Bakewell Town Hall 7:30 pm

Mrs DALLOWAY

Director: Marleen Gorris from the novel by Virginia Wolf.

On a hot summer day in 1923 Clarissa Dalloway, a middle-class English matron, prepares to give a party and finds herself haunted by thoughts of old friends and lovers. Marriage to a staid politician, rather than to a colourful impulsive lover, has led her down a path to a life of conformity to social convention. The film rests on the shoulders of Vanessa Redgrave and Natascha McElhone (who plays the young Clarissa in flashbacks). They portray a deeply contradictory character who is simultaneously contented and restless, brittle and resilient, highly-strung and surprisingly steadfast.

Clothing Sale - April 3rd

Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties pop along and purchase NEW clothes for 0 - 14 year olds, at HALF PRICE. There will be a number of well-known brands such as Gap, Next, M&S and Mothercare. 10% of sales will go to Great Longstone Pre School.

To be held at The White Lion on Thursday April 3rd at 7pm. Entrance tickets at £1 each will be available towards the end of March, or you can pay on the door.

**The next meeting of the Under
the Edge group is Thurs.**

**March 13th 7.15pm at
The Packhorse, Little Longstone**

**Deadline for the
April issue is Saturday
22nd March at 5pm**

Editorial Matter

The Editor and Management Committee does not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles.

Subscriptions are available, contact Liz McDonald, Suilven, the Close, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1TT Tel: (01629) 640171

Other enquiries and correspondence to: Suzy Barton, The Hermitage, Spring Bank, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TH Tel: (01629) 640675

Email: editor@ute.org.uk

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