



THE FARMING LIFE CENTRE

SUPPORTING FARMING & RURAL
LIFE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

Providing health, well-being and business support to the rural community through befriending, social groups and activities, workshops, farm walks, training events, talks and one-one support.

Find us every Monday at the Agricultural Business Centre
in Bakewell

www.thefarminglifecentre.org.uk

What a great start to the year...

Dear FLC Friend,

Time has certainly flown by as we are now heading into Spring and looking forward to some drier weather. As always farmers have been keeping a sharp eye on the weather and hoping that their lambing time will not be hindered by the wet conditions. British farming (and the weather) continues to bring us many challenges.



We hope that the projects we have on offer and our dedicated and knowledgeable staff team can help in some way to ensure your farm business can continue to develop and flourish. We hope you will enjoy reading about some of the highlights from the the last few months. As always we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Rachel Metcalfe

All change on the Board

The Board of Directors or Trustees are the individuals who are the silent, and less familiar faces behind the work of the charity. They are all volunteers who give their time freely and help to shape and move the charity forward and ensure we are adhering to the charitable aims and objectives which were set out many years ago - nearly 20!

There have recently been some changes with some new faces and some goodbyes. At our last Annual General Meeting Judy Dilks stepped down after nearly twelve years on the FLC Board - she will be missed and we thank her for all she has done.

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FLC Trustees...

We have welcomed Lorna Critchlow as a new trustee. For those of you who do not know, Lorna has had a long standing affiliation with the Farming Life Centre having previously worked with us. We are thrilled to have her back on board as a trustee.

Chris Morris passed the baton of Chairman on to Nik Searston at our AGM. Chris has been our Chair since 2019, and has always taken a keen interest in the charity. We are very pleased that he is staying on as a trustee to further support us with our work.

Nik's background in Agriculture, working for the NFU and now currently at SAI Global make him a great asset to the FLC board. Nik has been a trustee for two years, we are excited to have Nik step up into his new role.

Keep on Walking into 2024 with the Farming Life Centre...

Organised by our walk leaders, Pauline, Kay and John.

FARMING LIFE CENTRE WALKS

April - June

All walks meet at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start.
All walks are relatively flat and take between 60 and 90 minutes with a coffee & cake stop to finish. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 11th April
Grindleford - Meet at St Helens Church, 1 Main Road, Grindleford (near the bridge) S32 2JN.
Join us for a riverside walk to experience the sights and sounds of Spring. Followed by cakes and refreshments at the church Café.

Thursday 9th May
Hulme End - Meet at the Tea Junction Car park SK17 0EZ
Walk the beautiful Manifold Trail
Followed by refreshments at the café.

Thursday 6th June
Meet in the car park at Curbar Gap. A return to one of our favourite walks across Baslow Edge towards Wellington's monument. Coffee and cake at The Eating House in The Derbyshire Craft Centre after.

Our walks are short and 'Easy' but may involve some stiles or ascents/descents over a short distance. They have been chosen to ensure we are on good surfaces for walking whatever the weather - everyone welcome! However, in the event of extreme weather conditions, please contact Pauline on 07538 785666 to confirm the walk is going ahead.

Please wear sturdy footwear and clothing to suit the weather conditions

CELEBRATE WITH US

20 years

OF THE

Farming Life Centre

SATURDAY | 22 JUNE | 7pm till Late

Cow Shed Cafe, Millers Dale

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE WITH US

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Interested in joining one of our Rural Social Groups? They run each month in Ashford -in-the-Water, Hartington and Boylestone.

To find out what's on please check on our website or send us an email if you would like a programme .

Farm For The Future - Now taking sign-ups for Cohort 3 (2024-2025)

Have you signed up yet?

The offer:

- ✓ Environmental, Business and other topical workshops.
- ✓ 1:1 support with a local consultant - 3 hour session.
- ✓ FREE support to highlight opportunities on offer, grasp policy changes and make your farming business more resilient.

Any farmers across our region are encouraged to sign up and get involved. We will be holding a **Welcome Meeting** and **Farm Walk** in September where you will be able to find out more, get signed up and hear from farmers who have been part of the programme.

The Farming Life Centre are delivering Farm for the Future with The Royal Countryside Fund

Sign up today for FREE support from a trusted, local partner, who will help you tackle the challenges your farm faces and understand more about post-BPS opportunities.

What's on offer?



Workshop on business efficiency



Workshop on environmental schemes



Bespoke workshops tailored to your interests



Ongoing & one-to-one support



Get to know your local farming community

To sign up please get in touch with Alice on alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk or for more information give her a call on 07904691457



Find out more about The Royal Countryside Fund [here](#).

Sign-up to the Farm for the Future Programme [here](#).

"The workshops consistently excel in delivering high-quality content, and their speakers are remarkably engaging."

"The meetings effectively provide individuals with prompts to assess what steps they need to take to transform into a sustainable farm business, even amidst challenging economic conditions."

"Very well presented and full of useful info. The Q&A's are always interesting to hear other people's questions too."



Two members of the FLC recently attended the annual Royal Countryside Fund Farm Support Group Conference. This year it was held at Aldi Headquarters in Atherstone.

An invaluable couple of days sharing ideas, discussing farming challenges and celebrating the work of Farm Support Groups across the UK.

We listened to a range of speakers and engaged in a range of activities covering, mental health, savings in soil, branding and storytelling - all to support our work with the farming communities we support.

DONATIONS

FLC relies solely on donations and grants in order to run our various projects and support farming and rural communities across the Peak District.



We've
been
awarded
grant
funding!



Exciting news for The Farming Life Centre!

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a grant in the latest round of funding from The Royal Countryside Fund. Thanks to their support, we will be able to continue to help farmers across the Peak District navigate their way through the current agricultural changes to ensure they have a viable and sustainable farm business.

#CommunityImpact #RuralResilience

Oil Painter makes generous donation to FLC

A very big thank you to Michelle Bird, a brilliant and talented oil painter from Lincolnshire. Last year, totally out of the blue she contacted us to say she would be holding an exhibition of her work featuring, Derbyshire Landscapes, and would like to donate some money raised from the sale of her paintings!

Michelle even came along to some of our kids club sessions and worked with the children to create their very own masterpieces.

The FLC team were also invited to the opening evening of her exhibition at Thornbridge Hall. Her paintings were fantastic and it was a great event.

Michelle made a donation of £1200 which we will use to run our very popular kids club sessions over the next year.



Any donation you can give to support our work is greatly appreciated.

- **Fundraise for us...**

From cake sales to sponsored walks, organising your own fundraising event is a great way to raise money for FLC and it can also be very rewarding for you, your friends and family. Get in touch if you have an idea: info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk



Peak Farmers Group - Update

WHAT IS THE GROUP ALL ABOUT?

We are a collaborative group run by farmers for farmers.

The group is free to join and all of our events are free and open to farmers in the Peak District.

Events provide access to knowledge, methods and techniques helping you make informed decisions to prepare for the changes ahead. Join us to find out about what's new that could benefit you and your farm.

- Farm walks
- Field Trips
- Discussion
- Idea sharing
- Networking
- Social events





If you've not heard about the group you have definitely been missing out! With over 250 members there is something for everyone.

Back in November we went over to **Our Cow Molly**. It was a very cold Friday but despite the freezing temperatures members had a fantastic farm tour and saw some great examples of farm diversification - vending machines and an ice cream parlour. Those brave enough even sampled an ice cream at the end of the tour!

The new year started with a Social Evening for members, past hosts and speakers. At this meeting members enjoyed informal chats about their farm businesses and caught up with other members.

There are lots of plans as we go into 2024 focussing on a range of topics and areas that are important to our members. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings during the year.

If you would like to find out more and sign up to the Peak Farmers Group mailing list please get in touch with Alice:  07904 691457

 alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk

A SUMMER OF SHOWS

It may feel like 2024 has only just begun but the year is flying by and we are already thinking about Show Season 2024!

Here is where you will be able to find us!

- Bamford Sheep Dog Trials - 27th May
- Leek Show - 27th July
- Manifold Show - 10th August
- Ashover Show - 14th August
- Ashbourne Show - 17th August
- Harden Moss Sheep Dog Trials
- Brailsford Ploughing Match



FLC get out and about to talk to Young Farmers

In February Alice and Tiffany went to the Manifold Inn to give a talk to Waterhouses Young Farmers Club. The talk covered the work of the FLC and its current projects, social groups and upcoming events. There was a discussion about government grants including SFI and Countryside Stewardship.



- Able to select actions and do as many as you want
- Currently open with no deadline date to when to apply by
- Only open to farmers/landowners that have previously claimed BPS. Expected to open to all in Summer 2024
- More actions are coming (expected in Summer 2024)
- On top of any action payments there is an additional management payment on up to the first 50 hectares of land entered in SFI £20/ha (PM announced now £40/ha at the NFU Conference).

SFI Handbook can be found online. Details all the current actions that are available, how to carry out action, payment and what records to keep

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Handbook for the SFI 2023 offer

www.gov.uk/guides/sustainablefarmingincentive



RABI provides support to the farming community across England and Wales. Support is provided to those who are currently working in agriculture and those who are no longer working due to illness, injury, disability or age.

24/7 Helpline

Our freephone helpline is operating. If you need support during these uncertain times, please don't hesitate to call us on **0800 188 4444**

For general enquiries, please contact us on **01865 724 931** or info@rabi.org.uk

Visit online mental wellbeing service

Scholarships



Henry Plumb Foundation

- £500 - £3000
- Age 18 - 35
- for individuals interested in agricultural or food industry
- Examples: Business start up; internships; oversea exchanges; courses and events

Apply via application form on www.thehenryplumbfoundation.org.uk

Nuffield Scholarship

- Age 22 - 45
- for individuals that work in farming, food, horticulture, rural and associated industries
- Application has just opened!

More info and application form on www.nuffield scholar.org

Bakewell Agricultural & Horticultural Society Training Grants

- up to £1,000
- can be used as part of course fees, training course, books or equipment
- live within 30 miles radius of Bakewell

Apply via contact form on www.bakewellahs.co.uk

Meet the Chief Executive of The Peak District National Park - Phil Mulligan

Future dates...

- 14** Hathersage Swimming Pool, Tuesday 30 April (4pm-6pm)
- 14** The Chakra Lounge Bakewell, Thursday 23 May (1pm-3pm)

You don't need to book to attend - these events are a relaxed, informal opportunity to speak with Phil one-to-one over tea or coffee.

If Phil doesn't get chance to speak with you in person at the time, you may leave details of your feedback with a member of the team to follow-up at an alternative venue or by email.

