



THE FARMING LIFE CENTRE

SUPPORTING FARMING & RURAL LIFE
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

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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

Dear FLC Friend,

As we move through late summer, farming in the Peak District continues to show its resilience amid a season of dry and warm weather. While the dry spell has helped with haymaking and harvest preparations, it has also increased pressure on pasture and water supplies, reminding us of the delicate balance rural life depends on. Navigating farming schemes in 2025 continues to be a challenge for Peak District farmers with frequent changes and short-lived funding windows

adding to the pressure. The sudden closure of the Sustainable Farming Incentive earlier this year caught many off guard, though a refreshed version is expected in 2026

Meanwhile, schemes like Landscape Recovery and Farming in Protected Landscapes offer promise but often require complex, collaborative applications and quick responses to limited-time funding pots. With budgets under review and consultations ongoing, farmers are urged to stay informed and act swiftly when opportunities arise—because in today's climate, hesitation can mean missing out.

At The Farming Life Centre, we've had a busy few months supporting farmers and rural families through our wellbeing projects, youth programmes, and community events. We're proud to continue championing the voices and needs of our farming communities.



Rachel Metcalfe

OUR NEW RURAL SOCIAL GROUP IN BRADWELL IS UP & RUNNING

*We meet on the 2nd Thursday of
the month*

*Next meeting Thursday 11th
September 1pm to 3pm at
Bradwell Sports Pavilion.*

Earlier the month we welcomed Kath Deveney - Health Improvement Worker from Life Life Better Derbyshire. She talked about the free healthy lifestyles service provided by Derbyshire County Council, which offers support to help residents quit smoking, lose weight, get active, and improve mental wellbeing. We even had our blood pressure checked!

**You don't have to be from a
farming background - all welcome.**

**If you would like more information
contact:**

**Alice: 07904 691457 or email
alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk**



Peak Women in Ag: Walking, Learning, and Celebrating Together

This summer, Peak Women in Ag has continued to grow as a supportive and inspiring network for women in farming and rural life.

In May, we celebrated our first anniversary with a gathering at the Cowshed. What a fabulous evening it was. A huge thankyou to all who came along and brought food and of course a big thank you to David and Charlotte at the Cowshed for always giving us the warmest of welcomes and being so supportive of this amazing group.

The weather was perfect for our **June** meeting at Rowter Farm - A scenic walk up Mam Tor followed by a well-earned jacket potato supper. It was quite a climb and very windy when we reached the top but the views were worth it! Thanks to the Hadfield family for having us.



July brought us another memorable outing—a walk around the Derwent Dams, beautifully led by Kath and Andy, offering space for reflection and connection as well as hearing about their farming life and the fascinating history of Derwent village.



Hoodies are back...



These cosy hoodies are a great way to show your support for the group and stay warm as the seasons change. Each hoodie is priced at £30, and we'll be placing this next batch order soon. If you'd like to order one, please get in touch with Alice.

Next meeting - Learn how to gap with Sally Hodgson

THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST

07.00PM

Upperbooth Farm,
Edale, S33 7ZJ

You are invited to an informal evening at Upper Booth Farm, Edale by kind permission of Laura and Richard Worthington to learn practical dry stone wall gapping skills with Sally Hodgson from Walls for the Future.

Repairing gaps and weak spots is vital for keeping boundaries stock-proof and farms working efficiently.

These gatherings remind us of the strength and solidarity found in shared experiences.

If you would like to find out more please contact Alice.

alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk

Volunteering & Befriending: Building Rural Connections

Over the summer, Donna has been busy strengthening the Volunteer and Befriending Project, helping reduce isolation across our farming communities. From coordinating friendly visits to encouraging people to join local social groups, she's matched volunteers with those needing a listening ear and regular companionship. The project continues to grow, and Donna is always keen to welcome new volunteers who want to make a difference.




GAMES AFTERNOON

**FUN FOR ALL
FREE FOR EVERYONE!**

 **2ND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**
02:00pm - 04:00pm
Hartington Village Hall
Hartington Derbyshire

Join Us!

Join us for a fun game drop in session with friends and neighbours. For more information please get in touch with Donna on 07777 168 857 or email below.

Activities Include

- Dominoes ◀
- Board Games ◀
- Puzzles ◀
- Tea and Cake ◀



Contact us
 donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk

The Farming Life Centre



Farming Life Centre Befriending



The FLC's befriending service connects farming community members with passionate volunteers who understand rural life. Support includes face-to-face visits and encouragement to join local groups, aiming to build friendships and combat isolation.

Could this be YOU?

Anyone can be a rural befriender—you just need to be reliable, caring, and have a few spare hours each month. If you're willing to offer companionship and a listening ear, we'd love to hear from you.

OR?

Are you aware of someone who might truly benefit from the companionship and support our service offers? We would absolutely love to hear from you and discuss how we can make a positive impact together.



For more information please:
 Phone/text: 07777168857 or Email: donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk
 Charity No. 1130259

- Just 1–2 hours a week can make a huge difference in someone's life.
- Over 9 million people in the UK often feel lonely—befriending helps tackle this.
- Befriending reduces isolation, boosts wellbeing, and builds stronger communities
- Volunteers often report increased happiness and a sense of purpose.
- Befriending can be done in person, by phone, or even by video call.

No special skills needed—just a friendly attitude and willingness to listen.

Get in touch with Donna for more information:

donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk

Befriending in Rural Communities

Loneliness and isolation can be a real challenge in rural areas, especially for older residents and those working long hours on farms. Our befriending service offers a lifeline—providing regular, friendly contact that boosts wellbeing, builds confidence, and helps people feel more connected to their community. Whether it's a chat over the phone or a visit over a cuppa, these small moments make a big difference.

Rural Social Groups

Rural Social Groups: A Growing Tradition

The Farming Life Centre's Rural Social Groups began in response to the isolation felt by many farmers after the closure of traditional meeting places like livestock markets. Since the early 2000s, these groups have offered a welcoming space for farmers and rural residents to connect, share stories, and support one another. From coffee mornings to countryside walks, the groups continue to grow—bringing people together across the Peak District to build friendships and strengthen community ties.

Ashford-in-the-Water

A few weeks ago some of the group enjoyed riding around the Peak District and enjoying the views whilst on the Peak Explorer! The trip took us to the beautiful Chatsworth Farm Shop and Café, where we enjoyed good company, delicious local produce, and a refreshing walk in the sunshine—despite a bit of wind! It was a great chance to connect, chat, and soak up the stunning views of the Peak District. Thanks to everyone who joined us!



Boylestone

If you would like to get out and meet new people, why not try Boylestone Rural Social Group. The group, which meets monthly, is a Farming Life Centre initiative, and it's run by Rev Alan's father-in-law, Roger, so you're assured of a warm welcome.

The group meets at Boylestone Village Hall and plenty of refreshments are always served, and occasionally they arrange a trip out somewhere - these photos show a recent visit to a farm.

You can just turn up, or contact Roger for more details (07967 961028 or rogerslater@btinternet.com).

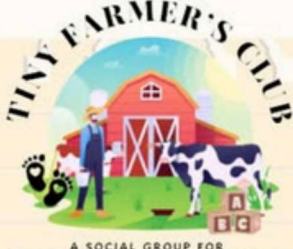
- ☞ 26th September at 2pm - Beetle Drive
- ☞ 23rd October at 2pm - talk by Alkington Dairy
- ☞ 27th November - talk by Dr Ann Featherstone



After a summer of shows, we'll see you
at Brailsford Ploughing Match...



Children & Young People...



TINY FARMER'S CLUB
A SOCIAL GROUP FOR
TINY FARMERS AND THEIR GROWN UPS

Wednesday 10th September
10.30-12.30
Peathills Farm, Buxworth,
SK237QG
Are you from a rural/farming background?

Join us for our monthly group with your rural preschool children and babies for an on the farm walk and making bug hotels. Make new friends with similar interests!

Email chloe@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk to book your place!
Our group runs on second Wednesday of the month at different venues.

Unfortunately, our group isn't suitable for nursery/ preschool groups.

Our Kids Club sessions and Tiny Farmer's Club have been very busy over the Summer



What a fabulous few weeks we've had at our Sheen Kid's Club sessions. We've loved every minute of it!

From weaving with Wild Roots Creative to junk modelling, crafting, parachuting and outdoor games - we've had lots of fun.

Thank you to all of our amazing children who have attended and make our job so worth while.

A great morning with the Dilks family. Learning about our organic farm, and the importance of all creatures great and small... 🐷 🐸 🐛

The children enjoyed making hedgehog houses and creating their own clay hedgehogs to take home.



**New Project
launching soon**

Digital Skills Support for Rural Communities

The Farming Life Centre, in partnership with Rural Action Derbyshire, is launching a new initiative to boost digital confidence and access across rural Derbyshire. The project aims to ensure that everyone—regardless of age, income, or location—can use digital technologies effectively.

Key activities include:

Monthly drop-in sessions at various locations for help with emails, online banking, NHS apps, video calling, and job applications.

1-to-1 support visits for individuals with limited transport access.

Peer learning groups for farmers to share digital tips and experiences.

Training on digital tools like weather apps, livestock management systems, online marketplaces, and government portals.

This initiative highlights how digital connectivity can save time, open new markets, and support sustainable farming.



Cattle farmers: watch our webinar on funding for vet visits

In the webinar, you'll hear:

- how the vet visit reviews can help you spot and prevent health issues early – particularly with testing for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)
- how to apply and what the funding covers
- how to book your vet visit and claim your payment
- how the optional follow-up visit works – including the PI (persistently infected) hunt.



News story

Bluetongue: latest situation

Overview of current bluetongue cases, risk level, vaccinations and restrictions.



20 August 2025 — Press release

[Heightened Avian Influenza Risk Warning Issued to Bird Keepers and Gamebird Rearers](#)

Bird keepers and gamebird rearers reminded of heightened Avian Influenza risk



In September, the new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) service will open for applications to those who have been invited to apply, have received pre-application advice and have completed any preparatory work.

The new and improved offer includes:

- a new species-rich floodplain meadow action to help protect and expand habitats that support wildlife and biodiversity, provide natural floodwater storage and offer potential for carbon capture and greater climate resilience
- a range of waterbody actions to help connect river and floodplain habitats, manage riparian and water edge habitats and prevent downstream flooding
- 4 new agroforestry actions to help reduce soil erosion, improve water and air quality on agricultural land, provide shade and shelter for crops and livestock, and reduce the risk of flooding.

You must wait to be invited

Since January, selected groups have been invited to pre-application advice from Natural England and the Forestry Commission. These include:

- those with existing CSHT agreements expiring in 2025
- those with an approved woodland management plan
- applicants who already have an approved agri-environment plan – such as an implementation plan or agroforestry plan – and are ready to develop a CSHT application

If you've received an invitation for pre-application advice and would like to go ahead, please respond within 10 working days.

Your pre-application invitation email from the RPA includes details on how to respond and what happens next. You must get advice and complete the pre-application step.

Next Walk

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

FARMING LIFE CENTRE *Walks for Health*



Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start

Grindleford

We will be walking by the beautiful Derwent river towards Hathersage
Followed by coffee and light refreshments in the community cafe in the churchyard.

Sep
25
2025

For any further information
Please Contact Pauline Bramley 07538785666

It's been a busy time for the walking group over the summer.

They had the annual gathering at Hazel's Farm in July with lots of tea, cake and chat followed by a walk in Blackwell with a visit to the Taddington Well Dressings in August.



Future Walks: October to December 2025

Thursday 30th October - Brough

We are exploring a walk across the fields from the outskirts of Brough towards Bradwell. Meet & park in Brough lane as it exits the main road B6409, Post code S33 9HG. Followed by refreshments at the Tideswell Lounge beside the Co-op.

Thursday 27th November - Cromford Canal

A return visit to the very pretty Cromford Canal to enjoy its wildlife. Meet at the lower car park near the rugby pitch. Coffee and cakes in the café at Cromford mill.

Thursday 11th December - Bakewell

Meet at the Agriculture Centre in Bakewell for our traditional Christmas walk. This will be followed by refreshments at the River and Roast café.