



THE FARMING LIFE CENTRE

SUPPORTING FARMING & RURAL LIFE  
IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

## 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](http://www.thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

### Dear FLC Friend,

Autumn is well and truly here. The hills are turning golden, and the sheep are settling into their winter coats. Autumn is always a time of reflection for me—thinking about the year we've had and what lies ahead.

This year has been tough for many of us. The dry spring and intense summer heat have left their mark on crops and grass growth, and I know the pressure of rising costs and unpredictable markets is weighing heavily.

I've spoken to farmers who are working longer hours than ever yet still worrying about the future. It's not just about the land—it's about our wellbeing too. But what strikes me most is the resilience and creativity in our community. I've seen farmers trying new approaches, sharing ideas, and supporting each other through the ups and downs. That's what makes farming so special—our ability to pull together.

This autumn, we're focusing on practical support and connection to help build resilience for the future. Whether it's a chat over a cuppa or learning something new, we want you to know—you're not alone. Let's keep looking out for each other and finding hope in the small things—like a crisp autumn morning or a friendly face at the market.



### HELP SUPPORT FLC THROUGH A DONATION

Charity funding is currently very tight, putting some of our projects that supports the rural community at risk. Showing your support through a donation can make a big impact on helping keep our projects going.

A donation can help provide inspiring opportunities for children and young people from farming and rural backgrounds through our kids programmes, or help support our befriending service. To donate please scan our QR code below, or through our website.

SCAN ME



DONATE NOW



*Rachel Metcalfe*



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

As the leaves turned and the evenings drew in, Peak Women in Ag made the most of autumn with a season full of learning and laughter.

In August, we got hands-on with dry stone walling a fun evening learning practical skill rooted in our local landscape. September saw us heading to Stoke for a fascinating behind-the-scenes visit to IAE, where we explored the innovation behind agricultural equipment. October brought us together for a joyful Harvest Supper, celebrating the season's bounty with good food and great company. Now, with December on the horizon, we're tuning up for Bavarian Carols ready to round off the year with festive cheer and a few hearty harmonies!



### Stay Warm and Show Your Support



These cosy hoodies are a great way to show your support for the group and keep warm as the seasons change. Each hoodie is priced at £30, and we'll be placing the next batch order soon. Polo Shirts and T-shirts also available.

**THESE GATHERINGS REMIND US OF THE STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY FOUND IN SHARED EXPERIENCES.**

Looking for a thoughtful gift? These hoodies make a perfect Christmas present for friends or family who love what we do!

If you'd like to order one, please get in touch with Alice.

If you would like to find out more contact Alice:  
[alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

### Next meeting - Carols with a Bavarian Band

This year, we'll be treated to the lively sounds of a traditional Bavarian band, bringing joy and energy with classic carols and spirited entertainment.

Expect an evening filled with music, laughter, and Christmas cheer.

£10 per person which includes Mulled Wine and Mince Pie.  
 Christmas Raffle



FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

7.30PM

COWSHED CAFE,  
 MILLERS DALE

Please **book** onto the meeting with  
 Alice on  
[alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

## Call for Volunteer Befrienders

FLCs Befriending programme is entering its second year and is calling out for more volunteers to help run the service. Donna, who runs the programme, is currently looking for volunteers to help in Eyam, Tideswell, Ashford and surrounding villages. Donna says:

*"Anyone can be a rural befriender, you just need to be reliable and caring, with a few hours to spare each month. If you can offer some company to those in need of a listening ear, we would love to have a chat with you."* If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Donna for more information: [donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

Here's what one of our volunteers has shared with us...

*"Volunteering as a befriender has been a pleasure. Visiting people in the relaxed atmosphere of their home environment helps a positive relationship to quickly develop."*

*Befriending gives people the time and space to chat about whatever they like be it farming, family, childhood, good times and bad, all are memories which can be shared. It is not only the person sharing who benefits but also the befriender. I am privileged to hear some fascinating, sad and funny tales. I have met some amazing people as a befriender and my life has certainly been enriched by that experience - and of course I have made new friends!"*

## Great News for Our Rural Communities!

**We're thrilled to share that the Farming Life Centre has been awarded £20,000 to support our Rural Befriending Project from the National Lottery Community Fund**

This funding means we can continue tackling isolation and loneliness in farming and rural communities across Derbyshire. Our amazing coordinator, Donna, will be leading the project—connecting people who might otherwise feel cut off, offering a friendly voice, and creating opportunities for meaningful social contact. Whether it's a regular phone call, a visit, or linking someone to local activities, this project makes a real difference to wellbeing.

**Why does this matter?** Life in rural areas can be beautiful, but it can also be isolating—especially for those living alone or facing health challenges. Befriending brings companionship, reassurance, and a sense of belonging.




### 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](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

**The Farming Life Centre**



With this funding, we can reach more people, train volunteers, and strengthen the support network that keeps our communities thriving.

"This project is so valuable because it reaches people who often feel forgotten. Being able to offer a friendly voice or a visit can transform someone's day. I'm especially passionate about supporting individuals living with dementia—helping them stay connected and feel part of their community." — Donna, Rural Befriending Coordinator.



## FLC at the Summer Shows



At the Farming Life Centre, we love getting out and about across the beautiful Peak District to visit local shows and events.

These occasions give us the chance to share updates on our projects, provide useful farming information, and talk about the issues that matter most to rural communities. More importantly, they're an opportunity to engage, reconnect, and strengthen friendships—both old and new.

Whether it's chatting about the latest developments in agriculture or simply catching

up over a cup of tea, these visits help us keep the farming community connected and supported.

We're already looking forward to 2026, with plans to attend even more shows and events, continuing to build relationships and share resources and information that make a real difference.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates about upcoming events and ways to get involved!

### Support The Farming Life Centre and your rural community with Give as You Live!

You can help our farming charity grow—just by shopping online! When you sign up to **Give as You Live**, every purchase you make at thousands of top retailers automatically generates a free donation for us, at no extra cost to you.

It's an easy way to make a big difference for our community and the future of sustainable farming. Click below to sign up and start giving while you shop!

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/the-farming-life-centre>



## Children & Young People

We've had a really busy couple of months with our Children and Young People, and our summer clubs were a big hit! At our Sheen Club we packed in lots of team-building activities – everything from building scrap models, and weaving with Wild Roots Creative, to getting stuck into outdoor sports. We had over 40 children join in with the fun!

Tiny Farmers have also enjoyed some lovely sessions at Hassop Family Farm, Peathills Farm, Buxworth, and Bushey Heath Farm in Tideswell – a huge thank-you to all our wonderful hosts!

Our in-school Farming Clubs have also got off to a great start, with plenty of farming trivia and fun “getting to know you” activities helping everyone settle in.



## Digital Inclusion Project Update Get Connected with Confidence



The Farming Life Centre has successfully utilized digital platforms to assist farming communities in Derbyshire. These efforts enhance social engagement, improve communication, promote resilience, and boost digital inclusion—connecting community well-being and support through technology.

Drop-in Sessions at Castleton Village Hall have been held during October and November. These sessions provided practical help for residents with tasks like: setting up email accounts, accessing online healthcare services, navigating social media safely, exploring and understanding Excel Spreadsheets and getting the most out of your mobile phone.

Members of the Farming Life Centre team were on hand throughout these sessions, offering one-to-one guidance and troubleshooting for digital devices. They also helped signpost people to further resources and training opportunities.

### Impact:

- Increased confidence among attendees in using digital tools.
- Strengthened community engagement by reducing barriers to online services.
- Positive feedback from participants who appreciated the friendly, patient support.



Over 8,800 applicants have successfully secured funding through this year's Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

Grant Funding Agreements (GFAs) have now been sent. Together, the successful offers are worth more than £68.4 million.



## Animal and Plant Health Agency

### LATEST UPDATE

Poultry and captive bird housing measures are in place in England



Find out more at [gov.uk/birdflu](https://gov.uk/birdflu)

**Reminder:** Housing measures to protect poultry & captive birds from #AvianInfluenza are now in place across the whole of England.

This means it is now a legal requirement for all keepers in England with over 50 birds or keepers of fewer than 50 birds who sell or give away eggs, meat or poultry to house their birds and follow stringent biosecurity measures. Keeping your birds undercover away from wild birds is vital to minimise the risk of them becoming infected with avian influenza by wild birds.

It remains essential that you follow strict biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease spreading to your birds.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) with mandatory biosecurity measures is also in force across Great Britain.

[http://www.gov.uk/.../national-housing-order-declared-to...](https://www.gov.uk/.../national-housing-order-declared-to...)



A one-year extension is being offered to more than 5,000 Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier (CS MT) agreement holders whose agreements are set to expire on 31 December this year. This targeted, time-limited extension is being offered while the reformed Sustainable Farming Incentive for 2026 is developed, the Environmental Improvement Plan is refreshed and the new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme is rolled out.

### About the extension

The extension will move the end date of your agreement to a later point – in this case, to 31 December 2026. You'll continue under the same rules, terms and conditions as your existing CS MT agreement.

Please note:

- you cannot use an extension to add, remove or replace options or capital items in an existing agreement.
- any capital works that haven't been completed and paid for by the time the extension starts will be removed from the agreement.
- options and supplements with a duration of less than 5 years cannot be extended.

### What you need to do

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will contact you within the next few weeks if your CS MT agreement is eligible for an extension. If you want an extension, you must reply to the offer by 27 November 2025. Your agreement and payments will then continue after 31 December 2025. If you do not want to continue with your agreement, or cannot meet the conditions of the extension, let the RPA know. If you do not reply to your extension offer by 27 November 2025, you will not be able to extend your agreement, and it will end on 31 December 2025. If you have not heard from the RPA by 6 November and have a CS MT agreement expiring in December 2025, you can call the RPA to check.

# Next Walk

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

## Walks for Health

For any further information  
Please Contact Pauline Bramley 0753 8785666



Thursday 12:45pm meet for 1pm Lunch

### *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 cafe in the Cromford mill site

Nov

27

2025



Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start

### *Bakewell*

Meet at the Agriculture centre Bakewell for our traditional Christmas walk. Followed by refreshments at the River and Roast cafe

Dec

11

2025



Healthwatch Derbyshire want to hear from people who smoke in Derbyshire or Derby City!

Tell us what helps or makes it hard to quit, and help shape stop-smoking support in your area.

It only takes 5–10 minutes, and you could win a £50 shopping voucher for taking part!

☛ Take the survey here: <https://bit.ly/490cEJq>



healthwatch  
Derbyshire

## Do you live in Derbyshire or Derby City, and smoke?

**We want to hear from you!**

They want to learn:

- Why you smoke
- What might help you to stop smoking
- How much you know about stop-smoking support



Win a £50  
Shopping  
voucher for  
taking part!

NHS  
Derby and Derbyshire

## A simple step for a safer winter

Keep yourself and your community well.  
Check if you need a vaccine this winter.



Take a simple step this winter.  
Protect yourself and your community today  
by checking if you can get a free vaccine this  
winter.

Check here: <https://bit.ly/wintervaccines>