



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,

As we move through February, March and into April, farming life begins to shift toward spring. Lambing season brings long days and nights, while improving weather and early grass growth signal the start of a new cycle on the land. These months can be rewarding, but they are also physically and mentally



demanding, making resilience and wellbeing especially important at this time of year.

At the Farming Life Centre, we recognise the pressures that come with this busy season and remain committed to supporting farmers and rural families in practical and meaningful ways. As we look ahead to a productive spring, we are excited about the projects and activities planned over the coming months.

We are also incredibly grateful for those who support the FLC by getting involved or offering their time as volunteers. Your contribution helps ensure that this season of growth supports not only the land, but the people who work it.

*Rachel Metcalfe*

### FLC COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

We are planning the next chapter of our work in the Peak District – and we want it to be shaped by you. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think, what you need, and what you would like to see. As an encouragement everyone who completes has a chance to win a hamper worth £100!

Your responses will genuinely shape what we do and what we apply for. They will also be shared – anonymously – with funders as evidence that our plans have been built with and by our community.

The survey can be found with this by scanning the QR code below

SCAN ME!





**Farm Resilience Programme**

Free, local support to help future-proof your family farm business.

[www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk/farmresilience](http://www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk/farmresilience)

Made possible thanks to...      

Our first workshop will take place on **Wednesday 6th May, 7pm at The Cowshed Café, Miller's Dale.**

Through a series of friendly, informative workshops, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Understand your farm business in greater depth.
- Explore new ideas, opportunities, and diversification options.
- Develop practical plans that support both your family and the long-term future of your farm.

It's a chance to share experiences with other local farmers and access expert guidance in a supportive, relaxed environment.

If you would like to find out more or would like to register your interest, please get in touch with Alice.



07904 691457



[alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

## Peak District Men in Farming - Wednesday May 20th



Our first meeting will take place at Aston Hall Farm, by kind permission of the Dalton family.

**Join us for a delightful farm walk, followed by hot food provided by Liz Kemp. We will gather at 6:45 PM, with the event commencing at 7:00 PM. The address is Aston Hall Farm, Aston, S33 6RA.**

This 1,200-acre upland farm in the Peak District combines traditional livestock farming with renewable energy enterprises, currently running 80 beef suckler cows alongside a flock of 700 breeding ewes, showcasing a resilient and sustainable upland system.

This is our first meeting of our new group Peak District Men in Farming please let Alice know if you are able to make the meeting for food numbers on the email or number below. The group will hold farm walks through the summer and social meet ups through the winter months with a break in March and April.

**Please book onto the meeting by contacting Alice:**  
[alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:alice@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk) or 07904 691457

## Befriending at The Farming Life Centre

We're excited to launch another games afternoon in Monyash, a new free community event designed to bring people together for fun, friendship, and a little friendly competition.

The first session on the 22nd April at Monyash Village Hall was a great success providing a relaxed and welcoming space for local residents to enjoy dominoes, board games, puzzles, tea, and cake. These sessions will continue on the third Wednesday of the month starting 17th June through till December, so if you're a keen board game player or simply looking for a chance to meet neighbours and have a chat, everyone is welcome to join in.



# GAMES AFTERNOON MONYASH

**FUN FOR ALL  
FREE FOR EVERYONE!**



**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF  
THE MONTH JUN-DEC**

**02:00pm- 04:00pm**

**Monyash Village Hall  
Monyash 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 ◀



The afternoons are completely free and open to all, making it a great opportunity for people of all ages to connect, socialise, and enjoy a friendly drop-in session with others in the community.

If you're based in Hartington, the board afternoons are still being offered the second Tuesday of the month.

For more information, please contact Donna on 07777 168 857 or email [donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk).



Contact us  
[donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk](mailto:donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk)

**The Farming  
Life Centre**



## Digital Support at The Farming Life Centre

We're pleased to announce that our popular Digital Inclusion Sessions are starting again this May at the Bamford Institute.

Running weekly from 6th May to 10th June, every Wednesday from 10:00am to 12 noon, these sessions are designed to support people living in rural communities to build confidence and skills when using digital tools in everyday life.

From weather apps and livestock systems to online marketplaces and accessing government services, we provide practical, hands-on support to help make day-to-day tasks simpler and less stressful. Sessions are friendly, informal, and tailored to individual needs, whether you are completely new to technology or looking to improve existing skills.



Our partners



## GET CONNECTED WITH CONFIDENCE

**GAIN THE SKILLS, ACCESS, AND CONFIDENCE TO USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

**Free**



WEDNESDAYS MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>

10am-12noon

Bamford Institute

**Join Us!**

For more information please get in touch with Tiffany on 07483372757 or email below.

Supported by Rural Action Derbyshire & Digital Support Derbyshire

**Get help with:**

- ✦ Emails & online banking
- ✦ NHS apps & video calling
- ✦ Job applications
- ✦ Weather monitoring apps
- ✦ Livestock management systems
- ✦ Digital Financial Management
- ✦ Farm Management Software
- ✦ Online marketplaces
- ✦ 1:1 Home Visits by arrangement

We also explore useful topics such as digital finance, sustainability tools, and farm management software, helping people discover how digital technology can save time, improve efficiency, and open up new opportunities both at home and at work.

Building confidence with digital technology can make a real difference, and we are proud to continue offering this valuable support to our rural communities.

**If you would like to find out more please contact Tiffany**

Tiffany@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk 07483 372757



We have been working hard behind the scenes to secure further funding to ensure the Farming Life Centre can continue to develop and maintain a wide range of projects supporting rural and farming communities across the Peak District. This funding has helped cover core costs, children and young people's projects, health and wellbeing initiatives, and rural social groups.

We are incredibly grateful to the charitable trusts and funders who have awarded grants, enabling this vital work to continue. We look forward to sharing with them the achievements and positive impacts made possible through their support.



THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE'S CHARITABLE TRUST

Grant Awarded to Support Initiatives for Children and Young People



Grant Granted to Support Rural Social Groups



Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

A grant has been awarded to support the Farming Life Centre's core running costs



Grant awarded to support Children & Young People

Vernon Robert Bowmer Charitable Trust

Grant support has enabled us to continue our health and wellbeing programmes

Red Sock Charitable Trust

Grant awarded to support Children & Young People

*A huge thank you to everyone who has made a donation through our donate button. Every contribution is reinvested into supporting farming and rural families throughout the Peak District.*

Hartington Community - Charity Night

A valued donation supporting the development of our new games groups.

**Donate**

## Young Farmer's Clubs

It's been a busy and inspiring period for members of the Young Farmer's Club, with two fantastic opportunities to learn more about both modern farming practice and the wider agricultural industry.

Before Easter, Hope Valley students visited Bubnell Cliff Farm in Baslow, a 120-hectare tenanted farm on the Chatsworth Estate. Home to the Wheatlands herd of pedigree Longhorn cattle, the farm provided a brilliant insight into regenerative farming in action. Students learned how the farm is working to enhance biodiversity and long-term sustainability through initiatives such as planting in-field trees, restoring hedgerows along historic field boundaries, and developing wood pasture to reconnect areas of ancient woodland.

More recently, Lady Manners students enjoyed a visit from Lomas Distribution. Following an engaging presentation from Simon Jackson and Stuart Blair on careers within the distribution sector, students were treated to a hands-on experience exploring a modern tractor unit parked at the school. The highlight for many was the chance to sit in the driver's seat and get a first-hand view of life on the road.



## Peak Women Update

**January's meeting** got off to an active and positive start, with plenty of energy in the room as everyone shook off the winter blues. The discussion was lively and engaging, with strong participation, good-natured competition, and a real sense of momentum that made the session both productive and enjoyable.

**February's meeting** was a fantastic demonstration led by Olivia Slack from Crich Butchers. An engaging, hands-on session showing how to split a lamb and shared valuable insights into running her butcher's shop and her journey into the trade. Members also enjoyed tasting her delicious sausages, sausage rolls, and scotch eggs, took part in a brilliant raffle, and had the chance to purchase some of her products, making it a thoroughly enjoyable and informative evening.

**March** is always a quieter month due to lambing, but the group still met and enjoyed coming together. Members shared recipes, swapped top tips for batch cooking, and, as always, there was plenty of delicious food to taste, making it a relaxed and enjoyable meeting despite the busy season.





## **Mandatory annual vet visits proposed for livestock farms**

Defra has launched a 12-week consultation proposing mandatory yearly veterinary reviews for most cattle, sheep and pig farms. These are currently voluntary under the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.

The proposal would require:

- annual vet reviews covering health, welfare, biosecurity and medicine use.
- sharing a small set of herd/flock data with Defra.
- stronger disease prevention and antimicrobial stewardship.

The consultation closes **18 May 2026**.



The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) provides grants to farmers, growers, foresters, and contractors in England for equipment and technology that improve productivity, animal welfare, and slurry management.

### **Grant Details:**

- Grants range from £1,000 to £25,000 per theme.
- Multiple theme applications are allowed if eligibility criteria are met.
- The scheme is competitive; not all applications will be successful.

### **Deadline:**

- The application period is open until **midday on Tuesday, 12 May 2026**.

Applications must be submitted online through the Farming Investment Fund service after registering with the Rural Payments Agency.



### **Fuel payment scams**

**If you're a pensioner you're being warned to be on high alert for scams as the recovery of Winter Fuel Payments begins this month.**

**Almost two million people are expected to repay their winter 2025 payment due to their annual income being more than £35,000 – for most people it's an automatic process and the payment will be recovered through a change to their tax code.**

**For those in Self Assessment who file online, the payment should be pre-populated in their 2025 to 2026 tax return, due by 31 January 2027. Customers should check and add it manually if it is not shown. Paper filers will need to add it on their tax return, due by 31 October 2026.**

**HMRC will never contact you by text or email to ask you to repay your Winter Fuel Payment, or to request bank details.**

**You can use HMRC's online checking tool at GOV.UK to see whether your payment will be reclaimed and how.**

**To report a suspicious text claiming to be from HMRC, forward it to 60599. To report a suspicious email, forward it to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk. To report a scam phone call, visit GOV.UK. If you have had money stolen, contact your bank immediately and contact Report Fraud.**

**Find out more [here](#)**

# Next Walk

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



Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start  
*High Peak trail*

Park in the Hurdlow car park  
SK179QJ

We will walk up this beautiful trail  
and then drive to the Tagg Lane Dairy  
for coffee and cakes

May  
7



Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start

*Curbar Gap*

Meet in the car park at Curbar gap  
S323YR

A welcome return to these Derbyshire  
edges to take in the magnificent  
views We will transfer to Calver craft  
centre for refreshments

June  
11



**NHS**  
Derbyshire Community  
Health Services  
NHS Foundation Trust

## FARMERS MOT DAY

Monday 18 May 2026, 9am – 1pm

Agricultural Business Centre, Agricultural Way,  
Bakewell, DE45 1AG

Organised by your NHS rural health team.

Scan here to find out more  
about what will be on offer:



Pop in to see us  
for a free health MOT!  
There will be lots of friendly  
health and wellbeing advice  
available from a range of  
services.



**NHS**

## Hay fever



Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for things you can do to ease  
your symptoms when the pollen count is high

As we head into spring, pollen levels start to rise. This can trigger hay fever and may make symptoms worse for people with asthma.

- Check you have the medicines you need
- If you need advice your local pharmacy can help

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hay-fever/>