



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 I write this, summer is in full swing across our farming communities. The hay and silage season has kept many busy, while the recent heatwave and prolonged dry spell continue to create challenges and uncertainty for farmers and rural businesses alike. Added to this are ongoing political

changes and developments at a national level, bringing yet more questions about what lies ahead.

In challenging times, the strength and resilience of farming communities shine through as they support one another.

The Farming Life Centre is dedicated to offering guidance and a listening ear, helping individuals navigate uncertainty. Despite ongoing challenges, longer summer days provide opportunities for connection and growth. Engagement in groups and activities fosters supportive rural communities where no one faces challenges alone.



Rachel Metcalfe

BABY NEWS

As Alice prepares to start her maternity leave at the end of August, we want to take a moment to celebrate all she has achieved and wish her, Charlie, and Baby Bettney all the very best for this exciting new chapter. Alice has worked incredibly hard over the past year, playing a key role in the Royal Countryside's Farm Business Resilience Project, while also launching a new Men's Group and continuing to grow and develop the Women's Group.

Her dedication, passion, and commitment have made a huge difference to so many people. We want to reassure Alice that she can enjoy this special time without any worries, as we have recently interviewed for maternity cover and her projects will be in very capable hands. We can't wait to meet Baby Bettney and hear all the exciting news when the time comes. Keep an eye on our social media channels to find out more about the newest member of our team!





The Farm Business Resilience Project was extremely well received, supporting a number of farm businesses from across the Peak District to explore their future with greater confidence.

Throughout the programme, participants benefited from expert input from consultants at Andersons, Promar and Ceres Rural, who delivered practical and informative sessions covering business planning, financial management, diversification opportunities and identifying new areas for growth. Alongside these technical topics, farmers also took part in a thought-provoking session on succession planning, encouraging important conversations about the future of family farms and the importance of planning ahead.

The workshops provided a valuable opportunity for farmers to step back from the day-to-day demands of farming, reflect on their business goals, and connect with others facing similar challenges. The positive feedback received highlights the importance of creating spaces where farming families can access trusted advice, share experiences and build resilience for the future.

Peak District Men in Farming - A Fabulous first meeting

The Peak Men's Group has enjoyed a very successful start, bringing together men from across the Peak District in relaxed and welcoming settings. The first meeting was held at Aston Hall Farm, by kind permission of the Dalton family.



Members enjoyed food, drinks and conversation, while gaining an insight into how traditional farming works alongside renewable energy enterprises. A tractor and trailer ride and stunning views across the Peak District made for a memorable evening.



The second meeting was held at Tideswell Welding Services, where Dan and Charlie provided a fascinating tour of the workshop. Members enjoyed demonstrations of the machinery and learned more about the skills and expertise behind the business. Once again, everyone was well fed and watered, creating the perfect atmosphere for conversation and connection.

Both events have been extremely well received and demonstrate the value of bringing people together to build friendships, share experiences and learn more about local rural businesses.

Befriending Expanding Fun & Friendship Across the Peak District

Following the continued success of our popular Fun & Friendship sessions in Hartington, we're delighted to have expanded the programme to include Monyash and Bradwell, bringing more opportunities for retired residents in rural communities to meet, socialise and enjoy time together.

These free monthly drop-in sessions offer a warm and welcoming space to enjoy board games, dominoes, puzzles, tea, coffee and plenty of conversation. Whether you're a regular games player or simply looking to get out of the house and meet new people, everyone is welcome. There is no need to book—just come along.

Our sessions take place:

- Hartington* Village Hall – Second Tuesday of each month
- Monyash Village Hall – Third Wednesday of each month
- Bradwell Memorial Hall – Second Thursday of each month



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are seeking a **Befriending volunteers** in the **Peak District**.

Ideally, the volunteer will have a **farming background or lived experience of rural life**, as this shared understanding would help build a meaningful connection. The role would suit someone who is **caring, a good listener, and dependable**, with a few hours to spare each month. If you are interested in giving your time and making a positive impact in your local rural community, we would love to hear from you.



The sessions have already brought together many local residents, helping to reduce loneliness, strengthen community connections and create lasting friendships in some of our rural villages.

For more information, please contact Donna on 07777 168857 or email donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk.

* Please note there is no session in Hartington this August due to work being done in the hall.



**The Farming
Life Centre**



donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk



07777 168 857



Tiny Farmers



Our Tiny Farmers sessions at **Hassop Family Farm** and **Lower Plumpton Farm** were a real success, bringing farming families together in a relaxed and familiar environment. These informal sessions provided a valuable opportunity for children and parents alike to spend a couple of hours with others who share similar experiences, building friendships, support networks and a sense of community. It was wonderful to see families connecting, chatting and enjoying time together while the children explored and played. A huge thank you to both farms for hosting us and helping to create such welcoming spaces where farming families could come together, support one another and enjoy some well-deserved social time.

Young Farmer's Clubs – Growing in Popularity

Thanks to funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL), our Farming Clubs at Hope Valley College, Lady Manners and the newly launched Chapel-en-le-Frith High School continue to thrive. Chapel's club has quickly proved popular, with young people from a range of backgrounds enjoying the opportunity to learn more about agriculture, connect with others who share similar interests, and explore potential careers in the rural sector.

Our Children and Young People's Co-ordinator, Chloe Redfearn, has been busy planning and delivering engaging sessions, adapting activities to reflect the interests of the group and ensuring every session is interactive, informative and enjoyable.

Recent activities have included livestock breed challenges, stock judging, a climate and upland farming debate, and sessions exploring pathways into agriculture. Young people have also welcomed guest speakers from LLM Farm Vets and the Moors for the Future Partnership, learning about animal health, veterinary careers, moorland conservation and sustainable land management. The enthusiasm and knowledge shown by the young people has been fantastic, creating lively discussions and helping to inspire the next generation of farmers and rural professionals.

FLC is off to the seaside...

We're also looking forward to our upcoming family trip to Bridlington – a real treat for farming families who are often tied to the demands of life on the farm. For one day, it will be a chance to swap wellies for flip-flops, enjoy some time by the sea and make special memories together away from the daily routine. There will, of course, be ice cream, along with plenty of opportunities to relax, have fun and spend time with friends old and new. This exciting trip has been made possible thanks to funding from a variety of sources that support our work with children, young people and farming families. We can't wait to tell you all about it and share some photographs from what promises to be a fantastic day out.



Seaside Trip – Bridlington
2026



Peak Women in Ag

Our **April** meeting focused on calf rearing, providing members with a valuable opportunity to learn more about youngstock management, nutrition, health and welfare. It was an informative evening with plenty of discussion and practical insights that members could take back to their own farms.



May's meeting was a very special one at Tissington Hall. What an absolutely fantastic evening! A huge thank you to Martin, David, Tom and Charlotte for showing us around and sharing their knowledge of the Hall and the farming activities across the wider estate. This visit offered a fascinating insight into both the history and future of the estate, and we are incredibly grateful to Sir Richard for making this memorable event possible.

June – Wildflowers at Waterfall Meadows: we enjoyed an evening exploring the beautiful Waterfall Meadows, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest in the Peak District. Guided by Chloe Palmer, members wandered through the meadows, learning about the rich variety of grasses, wildflowers and wildlife that thrive there.

It was wonderful to see the biodiversity of the area at its summer best and to hear about the importance of conserving these special habitats. The evening provided a perfect opportunity to appreciate the natural environment while catching up with fellow members in a stunning setting.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and host these varied and enjoyable meetings. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store.





£30 million Farmer Collaboration Fund

On 1 September, Defra are opening the £30 million Farmer Collaboration Fund, to help farmers and land managers share knowledge, reduce costs and build more resilient businesses.

The fund will help farmers to test new approaches collectively, spread risk, and access opportunities that are difficult to secure alone.

Practical activity the fund will support ranges from funding local facilitators to support farmers, start-up support for new collaboration groups, and coordination which strengthens farmers' position when seeking private investment. Guidance and eligibility criteria will be published in **August**.

SFI26: Window 1 now open

The first application window for the new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI26) opened on 30 June. This initial round is aimed at small farms (3–50 hectares) and farms without an existing Environmental Land Management (ELM) revenue agreement. A second application window is expected to open in September, when all eligible farmers and land managers will be able to apply.

SFI26 introduces a new application process, with agreements limited to one per farm business and a maximum value of £100,000 per agreement year. Window 1 has a dedicated budget and will remain open for around two months, although it may close earlier if funding is fully allocated. Defra has encouraged eligible farmers to apply promptly if they wish to secure a place.



From livestock injuries and machinery incidents to severe bleeding and crush injuries, serious on-farm accidents can happen without warning.

FarmersAid provides real time guidance for the 10 most common serious on-farm accident scenarios — helping farming people think fast, act right and feel more prepared while emergency services are on the way.

The app includes guidance for:

- ✓ Severe bleeding
- ✓ Crush injuries
- ✓ Falls from height
- ✓ Head injuries
- ✓ Limb entrapment
- ✓ Machinery-related incidents
- ✓ Livestock-related injuries
- ✓ Fractures
- ✓ Severe burns
- ✓ Medical collapse following trauma



App Store: <https://bit.ly/GetFarmersAid-iOS>

Google Play: <https://bit.ly/GetFarmersAid-Android>

Please help raise awareness of FarmersAid by sharing it across your farming networks and communities.



10 most common on-farm accident scenarios



Injured by animal



Burned



Crushed



Drowning



Electric shock



Fall from height



Hit from above



Hit by vehicle



Trapped in machinery

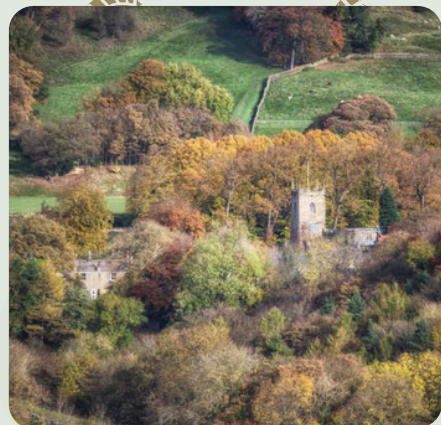


Trapped by vehicle

Get FarmersAid



Next Walk



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

Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start
Eyam

Park and meet in Eyam Hall Car park. We will explore lanes around the village and return to the cafe in Eyam Hall courtyard for refreshments.

Aug
27



Thursday 1:15pm for 1:30pm start
Ashford in the water

Meet near Sheepwash bridge
DE45 1QF
We will walk through the historic village and across the meadows. Followed by coffee and cakes at the Aisseford Tea rooms.

Sep
17

Think you need urgent dental care?



Think you need urgent dental care?

Urgent dental appointments are now available.

You do not need to have an NHS dentist to access them



forward on 

If you need urgent dental care for any of the following conditions, you can book an urgent appointment via NHS111 or by phoning 111.

Ask for an urgent or emergency dental appointment or get advice from NHS 111 now if:

- you have a knocked-out tooth or other injury to your teeth
- you have severe tooth or mouth pain that's affecting your sleep or daily activities, and is not helped by painkillers like paracetamol or ibuprofen
- you have tooth or mouth pain that is helped by taking painkillers, but it's not going away
- you have swelling, a lump or patch inside your mouth that's getting bigger or not going away – it may or may not be painful
- you've recently had a tooth removed and you're bleeding or have severe pain
- you have a broken or loose filling, denture, crown, bridge or veneer

Find a dentist offering urgent dental care near you.