

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
Ashford in the Water
and Sheldon

<https://ashfordparishchurch.com>

July/August 2026

Ashford Services

July

Sunday 05 Trinity 5: 9.30am Morning Worship led by Mary Stone
12 Trinity 6: 9.30am Sung Eucharist (With Gt Longstone)
19 Trinity 7: 9.30am Sung Eucharist
26 Trinity 8: 9.30am Sung Eucharist (With Sheldon)

August

Sunday 02 Trinity 9: 9.30am Morning Worship led by Alison Fletcher
09 Trinity 10: **10.30am** Sung Eucharist **At Gt Longstone**
16 Trinity 11 9.30am Sung Eucharist
23 Trinity 12: 9.30am Sung Eucharist (With Sheldon)
30 Trinity 13: **10.30am** **Benefice Eucharist at Sheldon**

Baptism

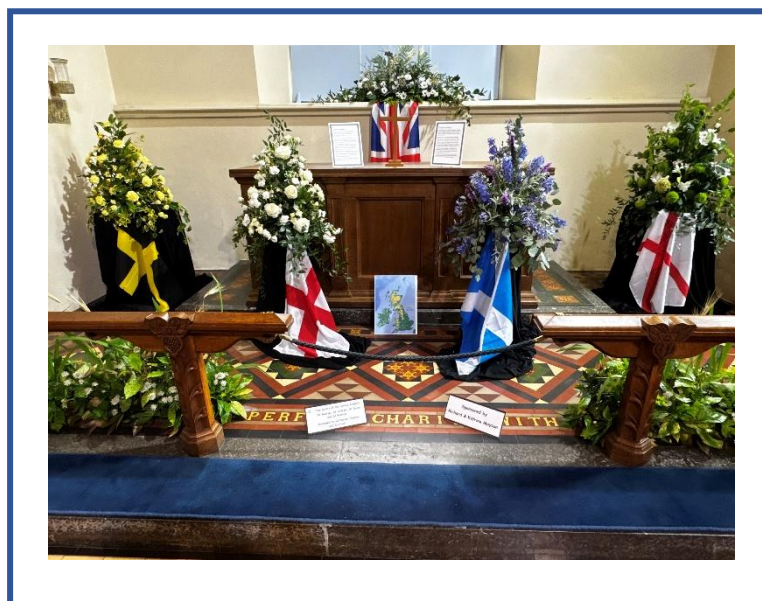
August 23: Theodore Ford (Great Grandson of Karen Templeman)

Funeral

01 July : Leonard Hull

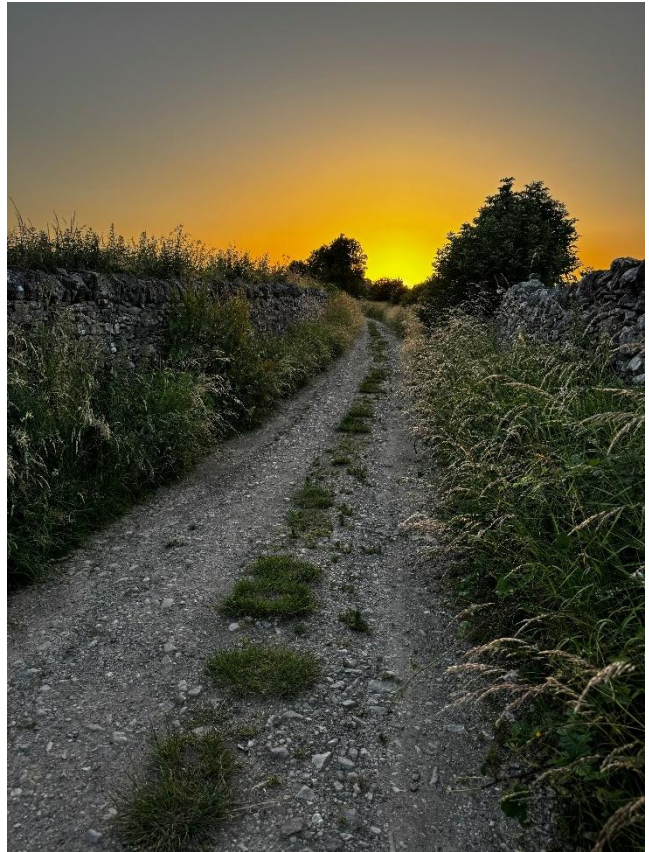
Sheldon

Sunday August 30th Trinity 13: 10.30am Benefice Eucharist



A prayer for summer and for journeys:

Be to us, O Lord,
An inspiration in our setting out,
A comfort on the way,
Cool shade in the heat,
Encouragement in weariness,
Protection in adversity,
Support on unsteady paths,
A port in stormy seas;
That with you being our Guide,
We may reach the place we seek,
And at length we may return again
To our home in safety,
Amen



From Revd Brenda:



Dear Friends

We are already living in the sci-fi future we've seen in movies. Artificial Intelligence, is transforming our world as much as the internet did. In June, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullaly, opened a debate in the House of Lords about AI. She pointed out that God made us creative beings, and AI and wider technologies are a remarkable product of human creativity which

have led to extraordinary discoveries and breakthroughs at speeds that we could never have imagined. Technology has connected us across the globe and opened up endless new opportunities for working, creating, learning and travelling. We now carry vast information, processing power and connectivity potential in our pockets with us every day.

But this extraordinary product of human creativity, and the power it places in our hands, also raises urgent new questions. What are the

implications for our human relationships, for our connections with family and friends? How does it impact on our working lives – the existence of, or the quality of our jobs? What are the implications for warfare, for climate change, for our engagement with information and democracy? Just because we could create something or deploy technology in a certain way, does that mean we should?”

The archbishop spoke of the decline in child literacy and skills in critical thinking. Of fake news, shaping opinion and presenting fiction as fact. One study found that Chatbots invent information, sometimes up to 27% of the time. There is a serious risk of a fundamental breakdown in trust across society. The real danger is not in our rising gullibility, but in our rising cynicism, that we will believe nothing. Perhaps it's not surprising that some people are turning to chatbots rather than other human beings for comfort or wisdom in moments of loneliness, loss, anxiety or pain.

It all sounds pretty hopeless but Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross offers profound hope to all humanity, in every season and circumstance. It also offers us a model for living a sacrificial lifestyle, one where with him at work in us, we can choose to sacrifice our own

personal ends in service of others and begin to see his Kingdom come on earth. Within this, lies the hope for our relationships, families and societies.

Christian faith is not in a predictable future, but in a faithful God who has guided His people through the fall of empires, the chaos of plagues, and the upheaval of revolutions. Yet the church has stood the test of time, trials and upheavals. This historical resilience gives us confidence to face the age of AI not with anxiety, but with faith-filled action. During a 16th-century plague, Martin Luther argued against fleeing, articulating a theology of service and a duty to care for one's neighbour. In the 20th century, figures like Dietrich Bonhoeffer stood against tyranny, showing a faith that compelled action even at great personal cost. This legacy reminds us that faith provides a source of strength and resilience within crises, not an escape from them.

The archbishop concluded, that above all, we must put people - our common, glorious humanity - ahead of profit, convenience or technological progress at all costs. To ensure that we harness AI to serve humanity, to be an extraordinary tool in the creation of a more just, abundant and hope-filled world.



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WELL DRESSING

Thank you again to everyone who made this year's Well Dressing such a success. Every year the Wells seem to get better and better, and this year each well was so very different, both with the subject matter and the content.

We should be very proud of our small village and of our all our helpers as six wells is something of a huge achievement. We must be one of very few villages who manage to dress so many wells, so a huge thank you to each and every one of you. Well done!

Everybody who visited our beautiful village was full of admiration for the skill involved in producing such a piece of art from nothing. Also a big thank you to those who worked so hard with the duck race and of course all the boys who helped with the puddling, transporting the heavy boards and putting them up. Also thank you to those boys who helped with the sheep washing - again a big success with a huge crowd who appreciated this marvellous old custom.

Thank you all so very much.

Sarah B Chair

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Another very successful event with several thousands of visitors looking round the church; 'Wow' being the reaction from many of them! The arrangements were stunning and it is amazing how our arrangers produce such creative displays year on year. The weather wasn't the best, although the cooler temperatures did help the flowers, and numbers were down on last year, but it was still financially successful and will allow us to support Ashgate Hospice and help with the repairs to the church roof and porch. Our stewards did a tremendous job welcoming our visitors into the church, showing them round and chatting about the theme and the church in general. People wrote in the visitor's book what a warm welcome they had received, so a very big 'Thank you' to them and to everyone who helped in any way and of course to our wonderful arrangers. I already have in mind a theme for next year's festival which coincides with the school's half-term holiday, so hopefully there will be plenty of visitors! Linda

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO SARAH BROCKLEHURST AND TO
LINDA FOSTER FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION
AS CHAIR OF THE WELLDRESSINGS AND ORGANISER OF
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FLOWER FESTIVAL 2026

THIS YEAR'S THEME WAS 'FOR ALL THE SAINTS ...'



The Saints by Gill Harris



St Luke, Patron Saint of Doctors by Kate Furness



St Peter by Hilary Bartlett



St Nicholas by Sarah and John Winkworth-Smith



St Valentine by Rosie Short



St Columba by Ann Ashcroft and Karen Templeman



St Mary, Mother of God by Janet Kerr



St Bede, Patron Saint of Scholars and Writers by Margaret Mellon



St Joseph, Patron Saint of Carpenters by Hannah Gregory-Campeau



The Saints of the United Kingdom by Catherine Treves and Iris Holt



St Fiacre, Patron Saint of Gardeners by Jane Daniell



St Cecilia, Patron Saint of Music by Barbara Baxter



St Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals and Ecology by Jan Gibson and Charlotte Swift



Pillars: St Michael and All Angels by Linda Foster and Vivien Lee



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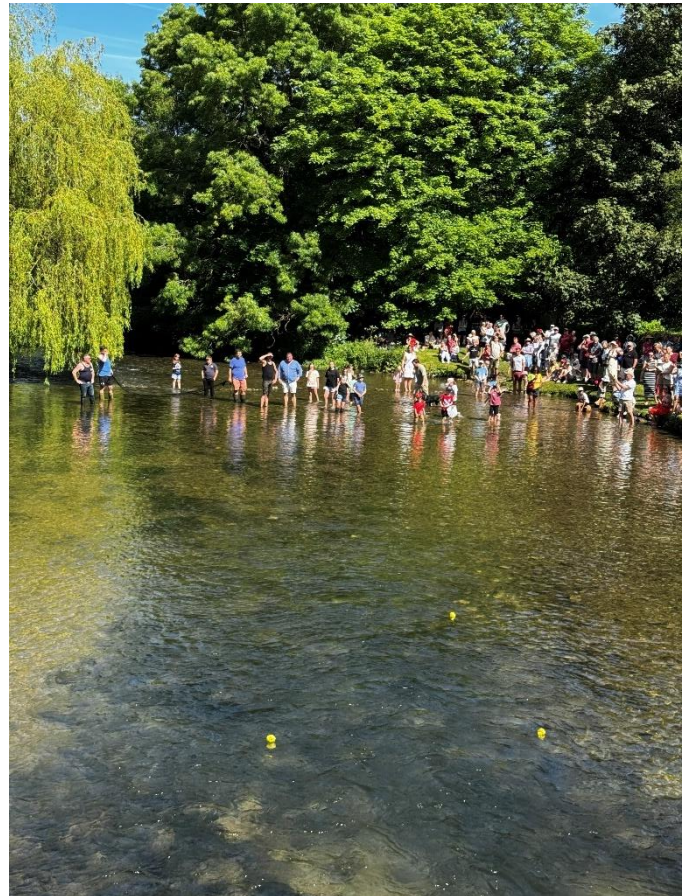
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ASHFORD WELL DRESSINGS 2026

SHEEPWASH DEMONSTRATION AND DUCK RACE



THE WELLS

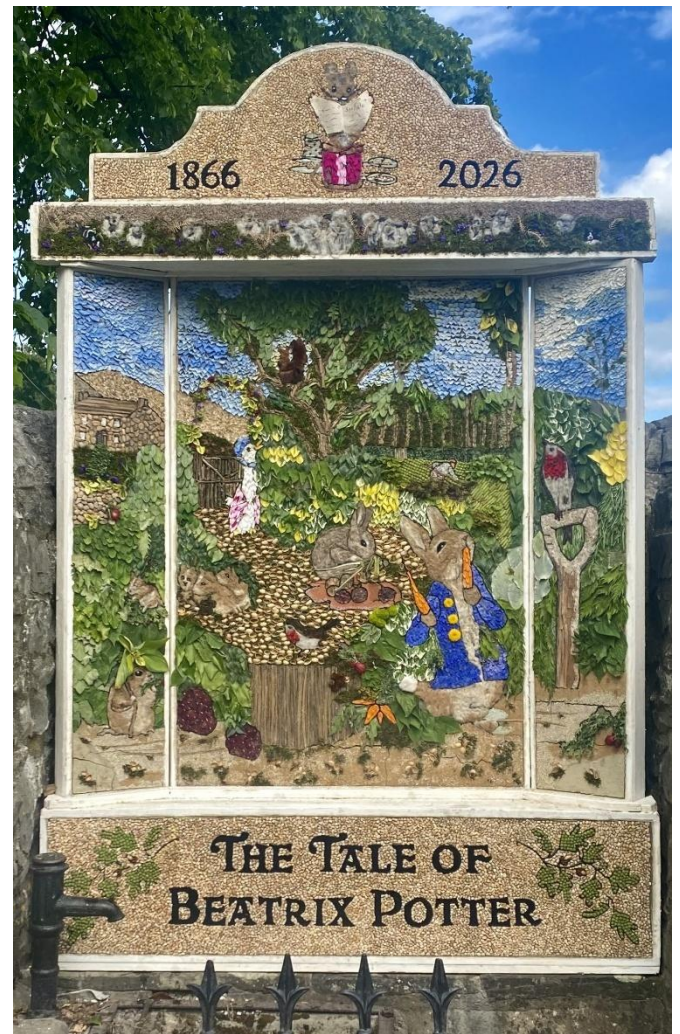


LITTLE WELL Greaves Lane

Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe on the 100th anniversary of her birth.

GREAVES LANE WELL

Beatrix Potter



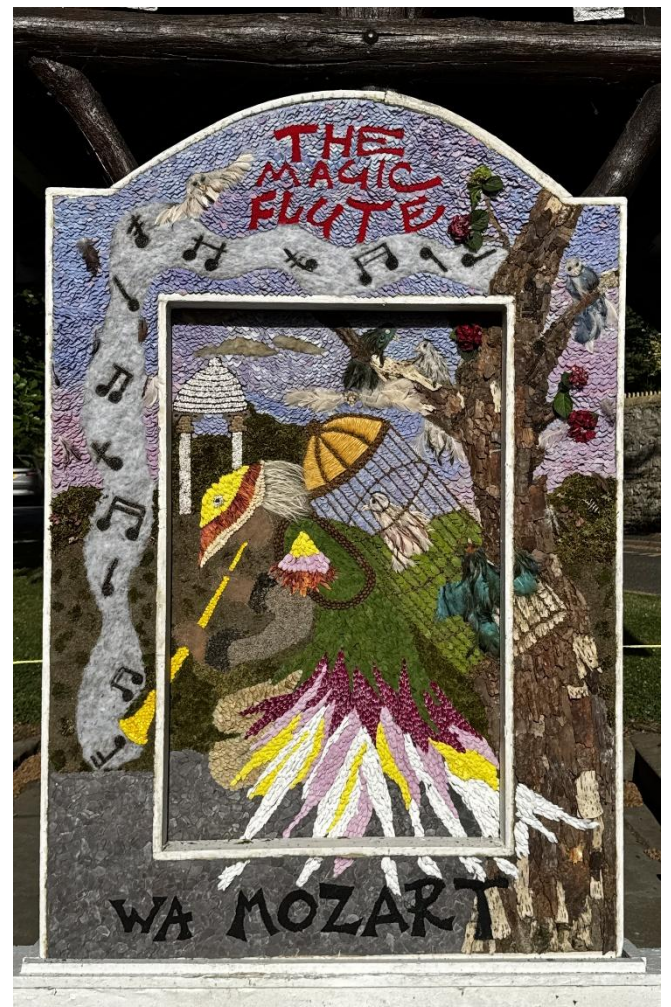


CHURCH STREET WELL

A Season for All

TOP PUMP WELL

Mozart's Magic Flute





CHILDREN'S WELL

David Attenborough's 100th birthday

SHEEPWASH WELL

Beryl Cook 100 years



BLESSING OF THE WELLS

Well Blessing Service with sermon preached from the old preaching cross by the Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby Cathedral, followed by procession and Blessing of the Wells with Youlgreave Silver Band.





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Farming News



Agriculture is so reliant on the weather, I think

the BBC weather app is the most used app on my phone, the last month being no exception. We have managed to get two huge cuts of silage, filling two large pits to the brim, and this last week we baled some very very good hay which smells heavenly!

The sheep were sheared in the last heatwave, thank goodness, as those sheep which haven't been clipped must be suffering badly from heatstroke. We have only a dozen or so cows left to calve so decided to put them in a small field up the drive so we could keep a watchful eye on them. Unfortunately, 24 hours after we turned them out one was down and couldn't stand up and had grass staggers: a calcium and magnesium deficiency caused by a sudden change in diet, so from having silage all winter, to a diet of grass her body reacted. The vet was called out (which now is very costly) and he injected into a vein in the neck calcium and/or magnesium. Unfortunately she didn't recover and died overnight, so we lost both cow and calf. Most annoying as it could have been a different outcome if we had caught her in time.

As with us the heat makes newborn calves drowsy and they don't have

the energy to get up and suck straight away, so we have had to be extra vigilant watching them! Every season brings its own problems.

Ashford in the Water Parish Council

For information about the village and surrounding area, and the activities of the Parish Council, please visit <http://www.ashford-in-the-water-pc.gov.uk>

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Ashford in the Water Summer Village Party



What a great day everyone had at our village party. The rain held off and the cloudy skies didn't stop us enjoying the fun.

We kicked off with the ever-enjoyable Matlock Brass Band, playing some sing-a-long favourites and ending with the popular Floral Dance.

The afternoon continued with old fashioned kids races. What a delight to hear squeals of "can we do that again" as numerous egg & spoon and three-legged races took place. Tug-of-war next, the warm up acts were the kids' pull followed by the ladies'. The main event being the best of three mens' pull. Congratulations to the winning team – take care of that little cup till next year.

Throughout the day the bouncy castle was busy and there was a permanent queue at the face painting. The welly-wanging was very popular and very competitive. Music, drinks and BBQ kept us going well into the evening.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and run the day and to all you villagers, family and friends who came along, joined in and supported the day.

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WINE OF THE MONTH

**Quinta de Azevedo,
Vinho Verde,
Loureiro/Alvarinho, £13.99**



With two stifling heat waves over the past month, my vinous ramblings this month turn to those wines that refresh the parts that other wines can't reach (with apologies to Heineken).



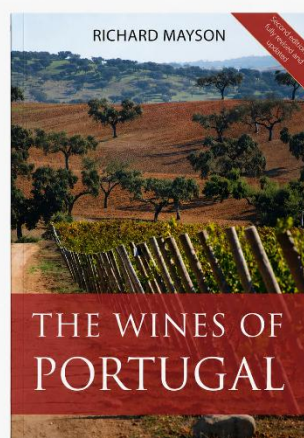
Vinho Verde ('Green Wine') from North West Portugal is made for the summer. The cool, damp Atlantic climate and granite soils lend themselves to producing wines with relatively low alcohol and refreshingly high natural acidity. If too high, the acidity was often offset by some residual sugar and spritz. This has changed in recent years, partly due to warmer summers but also better viticulture and wine making. The best Vinhos Verdes are now more serious: bone dry, balanced subtle and uniquely refreshing.

Hattersley's currently list a wonderful Vinho Verde from an estate near Barcelos belong to Portugal's largest wine maker, Sogrape. It is made from a blend of the region's two best grapes, Loureiro and Alvarinho. The two

complement each other with Alvarinho providing gentle jasmine-like fragrance over the fresh, steely minerality of Loureiro. It has an alcohol reading of 12% abv which is not high, making it a perfect lunch time or early evening wine for summer, to go with barbequed fish, shell fish and salads.

If you are looking for something a little lighter still, Hattersley's currently list three more Vinho Verdes including a pure Loureiro wine called Vila Nova which is discounted to £9.99 or Casal Mendes Vinho Verde which has an alcohol level of just 9%

I am just launching a new book, [The Wines of Portugal](#), and the publishers won't forgive me if I don't include a small plug for it, available on my website www.richardmayson.com. Now you can drink the wine and read all about it at the same time!



Ashford WI

On the Monday of Well Dressing and Flower Festival week our skilled and energetic WI members worked hard to bake and serve cakes and refreshments in the Village Hall. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, we saw a steady stream of visitors in the morning, while in the late afternoon we laid on a scrumptious afternoon tea for a visiting group of 35. The tables did look lovely, and our guests greatly appreciated our efforts, and of course our delicious scones and cakes!

How members approached our June talk varied between those who were quietly confident and those who were somewhat doubtful about their potential paper folding skills as Nia Williams gave a talk and demonstration on traditional Japanese art of Origami. Nia, who has a very easy and encouraging manner, took members through the various 'folds' needed to learn how to make a heart and a bunny out of single squares of paper, which we were then able to decorate. A whole range of emotions were on show during the evening – ranging from frowns and, puzzlement to surprise and pride - as we learnt about the history of this traditional Japanese art and then displayed our efforts - some perhaps more recognisable than others! In the end it was

summed up as a very enjoyable and creative evening.

Next month there will not be a meeting as instead we will enjoy our summer lunch at Rafters.

If you would like to join the Ashford in the Water WI, please email us on: AshfordWI28@gmail.com New members are always very welcome!



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A CAUTIONARY TALE

Thanks to Mother Blackbird for sending in her story.

This is just a warning to all blackbirds who live near Holy Trinity Church, Ashford in the Water.

I was just flying round the Church one Spring evening, teaching the children about flying while it was quiet, when they disappeared!! I couldn't find them anywhere but then I heard 'cheeping' from in the church porch. Some people who I haven't seen before could hear the sound too (I kept outside). Then this person who I have seen quite often came – I think she was going to lock the church. Imagine my horror on thinking they might be locked in! The strangers left and the other person disappeared. I was getting very anxious as I peeped in the porch and couldn't see my babies but I knew they would be hungry so I went off to find food. When I came back the 'door closing' person came back and shortly after another man came wearing big, big gloves and carrying some sort of big net thing.

I was just running up and down outside with my beak full of food, quite demented as they

looked round the porch whilst my babies called out piteously. Dad wasn't anywhere – just cleared off. These people then decided my babies must be behind a board thing, pretty old, and set about trying to get it off the sloping roof. They failed for lack of tools, I think, though they tried to use that thing they put to their ears to get help.

But then they decided the sound came from somewhere else – a wooden seat in front of the window. I could have told them that because I had been flying up against the window with the food. They moved the seat and there found one of my babies who flew off with their help. They must have thought that was it but it wasn't, my other baby was still there. They realised and let him fly out too. I flew out after them across the road.

Oh, did they have a telling off – “Don't go through any doors where there is a notice saying ‘Open Church’ ever again!” I drum into them each day. I think I might have recovered now after such a scare. We've kept away with all those comings and goings and flowers, flowers everywhere !!

But I suppose I should say thank you for the bird rescue team. Thankyou!



Chris & Danielle Caulton

after their wedding on a beautiful day at the end of May.

We have come to know them and Maisie their dog very well over the last 18 months and we wish them every happiness for their future lives together.

After a little persuasion Maisie delivered the wedding rings in a basket to the vicar to be blessed; what a star!

Funding for Local Projects to Protect Peak District Wildlife

Through its Community Nature Fund, the Peak District National Park

Foundation is offering grants to local groups taking action to create, expand and improve

spaces for nature. The Fund supports initiatives that promote biodiversity, restore habitats, and encourage community engagement.



Grants can be used to support all kinds of work that will benefit wildlife and biodiversity, but examples could include:

- creating wildflower meadows
- planting hedgerows or trees
- building or restoring ponds
- installing bird or bat boxes

Funding of up to £5,000 is available towards project costs, including the hire or purchase of tools, equipment and materials, as well as the costs of professional contractors where needed.

Parish councils, schools, CICs, CIOs, charities, community groups and societies can apply for projects taking place within the National Park boundary. Smallholders can also apply as long as the projects are not-for-profit and can demonstrate clear benefits for biodiversity.

The next deadline for applications is Friday 25th September, and applicants will hear the outcome of their application by Friday 23rd October. There is also a further deadline of 29th January 2027.

For more information and to apply, visit the Foundation's website - www.peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk/community-nature-fund/.

The Peak District Foundation is an independent charity which works to create a National Park which is thriving for nature and people and is protected for future generations. They want to see more land managed for nature, more heritage and rare habitats protected and more people able to enjoy the Peak District National Park.

They are building a community of supporters who work with them to protect and improve the Peak District for everyone, forever. To find out more and join the community, head to their website



- www.peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk/.

PUZZLE CORNER

July and August Quiz



1. St Swithin's Day falls on which day every year? And if it rains on

St Swithin's day, for how many more days will it rain?

2. What famous words were spoken by Martin Luther King Jr in a speech in August 1963

3. In the poem *The Garden Year*, 'Hot July brings cooling showers, apricots and gillyflowers. Which modern day flower is a gillyflower?

4. Neil Armstrong became the first man to step onto the moon on July 21st in which year?

5. On the 21st August 1911, what was stolen in Paris by Vincenzo Peruggia who hid in a cupboard?

6. What made news headlines on August 12th 1963?

7. The '20th July Plot' was the attempted assassination of whom?

8. Augusta, named after Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, mother of George III, is the second largest city in which American state?

9. Which rowing event, held annually on the River Thames, finishes on the first weekend in July?

10. Who was born on August 4th 1961 and later became the 44th US President?

Answers on last page.

JUNE IN AND AROUND ASHFORD



Sheldon Day

2026 Saturday 25th July
at 1.00pm

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Quiz answers

1. 15th July. 40 days
2. 'I have a dream.'
3. Carnation
4. 1963
5. The Mona Lisa
6. The Great Train Robbery
7. Hitler
8. Georgia
9. Henley Royal Regatta
10. Barack Obama

The deadline for the September magazine is 24th August 2026.

Please send any poems, photos, articles, recipes, puzzles, thoughts or reminiscences to the editor at stone.mary@sky.com. Thank you!

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Many thanks to the following for sharing their photos in the magazine: Roger Allam, Howard Stone, Linda Foster, Claire Tompkins, Aileen Piper, Sarah Walker



SHELDON FELL RACE

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