

LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2018

SPRING FAYRE



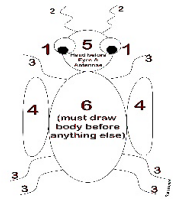
There will be a SPRING FAYRE in the Village Hall on **Saturday 21st April**, 10am - 2pm. The tables will be £15 and if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in having one, or you have any suggestions to improve on our recent similar events please contact Rev. Lee Cleminson (j) as soon as possible. The 'Fayre Tables' will be set out in the main hall, we will sell refreshments in the small hall and the whole event is in aid of St. John's Church.

BROTH AND BEETLE DRIVE



Please come along and join us on **Friday 2nd March at 7pm**, first for some warming broth and then to enjoy our often hilarious games of Beetle. The cost is £5. Please let Carol Robson (f) know by Saturday 24th February if you plan to attend.

Carol Robson



THE LONGHIRST HUNDRED CLUB

The winners of the last two 'Hundred Club' draws are:

Month	1 st Prize (£60)	2 nd Prize (£40)	3 rd Prize (£20)
December	Ticket No. 75 Peter Coates	Ticket No. 183 Ian Rickard	Ticket No. 127 Dennis Hodges for Will
January	Ticket No. 130 Val Thompson	Ticket No. 33 Margaret Jordon	Ticket No. 125 D. Hodges for Christopher

We are approaching that time of year when we all need to join or to renew our membership of the Longhirst Hundred Club. If you have not signed a standing order you should receive a letter from me by the middle of March. Of course, you may have previously asked me not to approach you about this matter but if not, and you have not heard from me by the last week of March, please let me (c) know.

Mike Elphick

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 4th January it was noted that there had been 2 instances of **fly tipping** some way up the bridleway north of the Village beside the chicane. Several drums of vegetable oil had been dumped and the incidents had been reported to the County Council. With the agreement of the landowner, Ian Thompson had fitted a padlock to the gate beside the B1337 to prevent further illegal access.

Problems with **parking on pavements at the north end of the Village and speeding traffic** were also reported. Residents are encouraged to take photographs and make a report to the police if any vehicle is parked so as to force pedestrians to walk into the road. A meeting will be arranged with the Community Police Officer, NCC highway officials and our local County Councillor to review the situation.

Development issues around **Longhirst Hall / Micklewood Close / Dairy Lane** were discussed at some length. All residents were anxious to see the wooden gate allowing pedestrian access to the rear of Longhirst Hall reopened and the Parish Council was awaiting news from NCC following the meeting held at County Hall with planning officials and representatives from Micklewood Close. It was also noted that apparent changes in the board of Dere Street Homes might offer an opportunity to foster a more positive relationship with the Company. Peter Coates was asked to contact County Councillor David Towns to try and find out what progress NCC planners had made.

It was agreed that the ongoing work of the **Parish Litter Pickers** should be recognised. They have cleared litter from the verges of the four main roads into the Village on a monthly basis for 15 years and their efforts are very much appreciated by everyone. A short presentation will be made at the coffee morning to be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 10th February**.

Representatives from the **major Parish organisations** will be invited to attend a meeting to review how we work together to the benefit of all Parish residents. This will include the Parish Council, the Parish Association, the Parochial Church Council, the Garden Association and the Longhirst Leader. Representatives from Micklewood Close will also be invited.

The Broadband Working Party is currently trying to ascertain the progress (or lack of progress) Openreach are making to connect the Ashington exchange numbers to **fibre broadband**. Any news will be reported to residents as soon as possible.

The **Parish Council is keen to involve residents** and discuss issues that are concerning them as much as possible. At the same time the Council wishes to ensure that business is conducted efficiently and that meetings do not drag out unnecessarily. Any resident wishing to have an issue raised at the next meeting is requested to contact the Clerk [Ian Thompson (a)] with a brief written summary of the item at least 7 days beforehand.

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 1st March** in the Village Hall and all residents are invited to attend.

Peter Coates

WELCOME



Welcome to the Waterston family, Clifford, Sarah, Katie, Myles and Cooper who recently moved into Highlees. We hope they will be very happy in their new home and look forward to seeing them at future Village events.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



It is with much regret that we have to report the decision of our Chairman, Gill Featonby, to resign from the Board. She has been Chairman of the Parish Association since it was set up in 2001, overseeing the demanding and complicated processes of achieving charitable status, negotiating the 99 year lease, raising the substantial funds needed for refurbishment, the management of the refurbishment itself and the development of the Hall as a resource for the Village and wider community during the past ten years. We will be forever grateful for her tireless contributions, and those of her late husband David, to the Village Hall and the community of Longhirst and we wish her well as she undertakes her move to Morpeth. Ian Thompson is going to step in as Chairman for the time being.

The other big issue for the Village Hall is the decision of the Board of Trustees, to apply for a 'Premises Licence' for the supply of alcohol and the staging of regulated entertainment under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 between the hours of 9am and 12.30am at night. The application will be submitted to the licencing authority on the 1st February this year in the hope that the licence will commence from the 1st of April.

It is not the intention of the Trustees to increase the number of occasions when alcohol is supplied or regulated entertainment is put on. A 'Premises Licence' simplifies the current process and reduces the cost of enabling the users of the Village Hall to have a drink or put on a play or film without the need to apply to the County Council for a Temporary Event Notice every time.

Once the application has been submitted, details can be viewed Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm at **The Licencing Section, Northumberland County Council, Fire & Rescue Service, Business Compliance & Public Protection Unit, Stakeford Depot, East View, Stakeford, NE62 5TR** and any formal comments or objections you may wish to make about the application must be in writing and sent to that address on or before the 2nd March 2018.

If you would like to know more about why the Parish Association has decided to apply for the 'Premises Licence' and the implications for the Village Hall, please feel free to contact our new Chairman, Ian Thompson (a) who will be happy to call round and discuss the matter.

ADDITIONS TO THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL.



At the beginning of January, Rebecca Tait, a fully qualified dance instructor, started weekly **Ballet Classes** for children (4-6pm) and adults (6-7pm) at the Village Hall on Wednesdays. If anyone would like to join those classes they should e:mail Rebecca on principal@balletbleuacademy.com or phone her on 07557990150.

We are also in touch with two possible providers of **Fitness Classes** for adults and children of both genders. So far we are at the very early stages of negotiations but if any of you would be interested in joining a weekly fitness class, please let Mike Elphick (c) know.



The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We offer you a warm welcome to our combined services at St John's Longhirst, St Andrew's Bothal and St Margaret's in Pegswood.

4th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in Rectory

11th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

18th February - Family Service 10am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

25th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

4th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

11th March - Mothering Sunday 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

18th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

25th March - Palm Sunday 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

Monday 26th March - Holy Communion 7pm at St John's, Longhirst

Tuesday 27th March - Holy Communion 7pm at St Andrew's, Bothal

Wednesday 28th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at St Margaret's, Pegswood

Maundy Thursday 29th March - Holy Communion 7pm at St John's, Longhirst

Good Friday 30th March - Morning Prayer 9.30am at Bothal, 3pm at Pegswood

Easter Sunday 1st April - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst

We anticipate that Colin Bentham will be starting work on creating a Servery at the back of the Church very soon. This could mean that we move our Longhirst services to the Village Hall - watch this space!

Our **Lent Services** start on Wednesday 14th February with Communion at 9.30am in Pegswood and 7pm in Longhirst. Then from Wednesday 21st February there will be devotional meetings at 7.30pm (please contact John (b) or Lee (j) for details).

We invite you to join us at these **upcoming events**:-

Friday 2nd March - Broth and Beetle evening, see page 1

Sunday 18th March - Church AGM at 6pm in the Village Hall, all welcome

Saturday 21st April - Spring Fayre 10am - 2pm in the Village Hall, see page 1

Saturday 5th May - Wild Life Watch Day at Carol Robson's

Saturday 23rd June - Traditional Church Fete at 2pm at the Village Hall

Our Christmas Coffee morning raised £822 and we thank you once again for your continued support. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful year in 2018.

Jill Elphick (e)

CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING

With your help we raised £500 for our Christmas charities. We have sent £250 to the 'Daft as a Brush' organisation and £250 to the Wellbeing Challenge in South Tyneside. On behalf of the latter group Jill and Andy say 'Just a quick but heartfelt thank you for the generous donation to the Wellbeing Challenge project. It is very much appreciated and we will let you know later in the year how the money has been used.'

VICAR'S LETTER



Before Christmas Year 4 from Pegswood School visited St. John's Church and spent a morning asking questions and identifying features which they expected to find in a parish church. The children were particularly intrigued by the organ, one enthusiastic young lad discovered there were 1,216 pages in an old bible which was too big and heavy for him to carry while several others enjoyed putting the sign of the cross on their foreheads with water from the baptismal font. One youngster thought the font might be a bird bath. Questions were also asked about features particular to St. John's like the carved reredos behind the altar depicting the resurrection of Christ and the stained glass windows dedicated to local saints. Of some interest were the Churchwardens' staves which Dorothy McMillan showed them. Rev'ds Lee and John got dressed up and put on coloured stoles leading into a discussion of the church's four seasonal colours: white for celebration (Christmas and Easter); purple for waiting and preparing as in Advent (preparing for Christmas) and Lent (preparing for Easter); red for Good Friday (the blood of Christ) and finally green for so called "Ordinary Time". On their way out of church the class particularly enjoyed the story of the weathercock which once surmounted the spire and how it came to sustain bullet holes during World War One. Walking around the outside of the Church we noted the gravestones but the class was disappointed about the total absence of gargoyles on the walls. After receiving a blessing, they walked back up the road to Pegswood.

Their class teacher Mrs Welsh very kindly sent us some of their work which was displayed on the church noticeboard. This is a collection of some observations made by Abbey, Hareem and Katie put together to spell out Longhirst.

Longhirst Church was a very large and a very old church. It was built in 1876.

On the top of the church there used to be an old cockerel.

No scary gargoyles are hanging upon the roof.

Good Friday is when Jesus got sadly crucified on the cross.

Hanging from the wooden roof was a colourful rope you pull it for the bell to ring.

Inside the church there is a gold and shiny lectern that holds the bible.

Red pretty stoles represented Jesus' blood, special scarves are called stoles.

Soldiers targeted the weathervane it has 3 holes in it.

The church has a musical organ for hymns.

John Park

THE MILE OF PENNIES APPEAL

The mile of pennies fund is still going but it seems as though people have forgotten about it because the flow of pennies has all but dried up. So far, we have raised £1,409 for the Village Hall and the Church and this equates to 1 mile and 1,450 yards. I have been saying that the 2 mile post is in sight for some time and of course it is, but it seems that the last 310 yards or 14,880 pennies is proving difficult to collect. So let's give the appeal a shot in the arm and get over that 2 mile line!!



If you have a pot full of pennies and two-pences (or any other coins including foreign currency), just let me know. I will be happy to come round and collect them, count them and ensure that your contribution is receipted and recorded.

Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Saturday 3rd	7pm Village Hall Celebration	(e)
Wednesday 7 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 10 th	10am Litter Pickers Meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Monday 12 th	7.30pm LGA AGM and Committee Meeting in the Village Hall	(p)
Sunday 18 th	10am Family Service at St. John's	(b)
Tuesday 20 th	12noon Mothers' Union Prayer Lunch with Rev. Lee Cleminson	(g)
Wednesday 21 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 25 th	Village walk in Northumberland	(l)

MARCH

Thursday 1 st	7pm Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 2 nd	7pm Broth and Beetle evening in Village Hall	(f)
Wednesday 7 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 9th	Deadline for items for the April/May Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 10 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Sunday 11 th	9.30am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion at St Andrews Bothal	(b)
Sunday 18 th	6pm St. John's Church AGM in the Village Hall	(e)
Tuesday 20 th	2pm Mothers' Union meets at St. Margaret's in Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 21 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)

APRIL

Sunday 1 st	9.30am Easter Sunday Holy Communion at St John's Longhirst	(b)
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REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 4
- Junior (7 - 14yrs) Activities Club in V Hall 6.30 - 7.30 every Tuesday during term time
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Ballet lessons in the Village Hall on Wednesday. Children 4-6pm, Adults 6-7pm
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery 9th/23rd February and 9th/23rd March

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 21st April - Spring Fayre

Saturday 5th May - Wild Life Watch Day at Carol Robson's

Saturday 23rd June - Church Fete

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about the various activities and events mentioned in this Newsletter contact:-

Parish Council Clerk - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk (a)

Vicar - Rev. John Park 510793 / e-mail : johnp2910@gmx.co.uk (b)

Assistant Curate - Rev. Lee Cleminson 519398 / e-mail : Revleeecleminson@gmail.com (j)

Churchwardens - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail : dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk (d)

Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

PCC Secretary - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

Mothers' Union - Angela Mason 517872 / e-mail : angela148@hotmail.co.uk (g)

Longhirst Parish Association - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk (a)

Village Hall Bookings - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Luncheon Club - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk (i)

Badminton - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : pandc@petercoates.plus.com (k)

Junior Activities Club - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)

Longhirst Amblers - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: pandc@petercoates.plus.com (l)

Garden Association - Carol Benbow 790194 / e-mail : carol_benbow@hotmail.com (p)

Longhirst Hundred Club - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)

Parish Voluntary Litter Clearance - Chris Lediard 790268 / chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk (r)

Village Coffee Mornings - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall - Bill Climson 816075 / e-mail: billclimson@gmail.com (m)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Alan Block 790282 / ablock@lineone.net (u)

Village Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Church Website - www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk (b)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 791088, claire@petercoates.plus.com (k,l)

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, dewarms@btinternet.com (w)

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Our sincere thanks to

Mandarin Bay
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for printing this magazine

If you require a copy in large print please let us know.