

LONGHIRST LEADER

October / November 2018

ARE WE GOING TO RUN AN OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND IN 2019?



People, both from within the Parish and elsewhere, are beginning to ask whether Longhirst is going to hold the biannual Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival next year. The Longhirst Parish Association has asked me to call a meeting to see whether it is feasible in terms of human and material resources.

We already have an offer to chair and co-ordinate the event but we will need much more in terms of the Gardens, the Church, Publicity, Refreshments,

Parking & Traffic Management, Finance, Signage etc.

I would therefore like to invite all those who want to see this happen, and are prepared to consider helping, to an open meeting on **Saturday 13th October at 11.30am** in the Village Hall, after the Coffee Morning, to see if "Open Gardens 2019" is feasible. If so, we will then need to identify a small group of people to oversee the different areas.

If you are unable to come but would like to play a part in the organisation please let me (c) know.

Mike Elphick, Hon. Secretary to the Longhirst Parish Association

"WELCOME" COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning is to be held on the morning of **Sunday 11th November at 11.30am** [just after the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial (see page 6)] to welcome newcomers to the Parish. All residents are invited and we particularly want to provide an opportunity for new arrivals to meet existing members of the community and find out more about the various Parish organisations and the activities that are taking place. Many visitors pass comment on how active Longhirst seems to be in spite of our relatively small size. Please come along and join us, especially if you live at Micklewood Close, Longhirst Hall or The Colliery.



VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



We are pleased to report that our first Pub Night in September was a real success. Some people from the Village met each other for the first time having lived in Longhirst for years.

The next Pub Night is on **Friday 19th October** from 7.30-11pm in the Village Hall. Come along and meet friends old and new in a relaxing atmosphere.

Allison & Richard Tordoff



TRADESMAN RECOMMENDATION

Jamie Bussey, Plumbing & Heating, 2 Castleway, Pegswood, 07725 027198. We found him capable, reliable and reasonable. He coped well with my ancient system.

Ralph King, 1 Station Cottages

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The meeting held on 13th September was attended by an NCC Highways Officer, Richard McKenzie, and a wide range of **highway issues** was discussed including traffic speeds, new speed signs, parking and Parish priorities for the NCC Local Transport Plan. New electronic speed monitoring signs will be ordered as soon

as the finance has been agreed with David Towns (our County Councillor) and the old sign beside the Village Hall will be removed (done by NCC within 48 hours). It was agreed that the priorities are improvements to the footpaths along the Pegswood Road, along Station Road from the Village to the level crossing and the B1337 from Fawdon to the Hebron junction. NCC will arrange for a Road Safety Officer to survey safety issues through the Village and recommend improvements.

Andrea Teesdale, our **Community Police Officer**, was also present and promised to request that the speed enforcement van be deployed in Longhirst. She advised that residents should ensure that their sheds are secured at night and to report any suspicious activity by late evening "fish sellers" who seem to be targeting this area at present. Andrea can be contacted on 07766 193262. The Clerk, Ian Thompson, reported that the **annual audit** had been completed successfully and that recent problems with the TSB are now resolved.

Following consultations with residents a **Parish Council notice board** will be erected at Micklewood Close. Many thanks to Carol Hunter for her assistance with this.

At the last meeting it was pointed out that many Parish road signs were dirty and/or partially obscured by overhanging branches. It was suggested that this might be an opportunity to extend the highly valued contribution already being made by the Longhirst Litter Pickers and attempt to **recruit additional volunteers to clean signs and clear the tops of drains**, etc.. It was agreed that such an initiative could well add to a sense of pride in the local community and should be encouraged.

The Council has discussed problems caused by on-street parking at the north end of the Main Street over many years without making any noticeable improvement and it was agreed that attempts should be made to **acquire the field at the north west corner of the Village for potential community allotments and car parking**. The landowner would be contacted to see if it is possible to purchase the land.

The Woodland Trust have appointed a new manager and contractor to maintain **Paddock Wood** and work is currently underway to cut grass, thin trees, lay hedges and seed wild flowers. They are also considering constructing a pond to encourage other wildlife but would **welcome comments**. Please contact Ian Thompson (a) if you have any suggestions to make.

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

Peter Coates

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

At long last Openreach have made significant progress in providing fibre broadband for the Ashington numbers in the Parish!! 22 telegraph poles have been erected along the Ashington road and a new cabinet has been installed at the T junction just east of the level crossing. We can only hope that the new service is up and running sooner rather than later. Please be aware that once the "high speed broadband is here" signs appear on the cabinet it is up to home owners to contact their broadband suppliers and arrange for the switch over to be made.

Peter Coates

DELIVERY OF PAPER COPIES OF THE LEADER

If you usually receive the Longhirst Leader by e-mail and have not returned your Data Privacy Consent Form you are unlikely to have seen the August / September edition or received the September e-Supplement. As a result you may not know that from now on a paper copy of the Leader will be delivered to your door unless you contact Mike Elphick (c) and ask to receive it by e-mail. He is still happy to accept your Consent Form if you wish to remain on the Village data base to receive the e-Supplement and other Village information.

The Editorial Group

NEW MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL GROUP

We are delighted to welcome Janet Quinn (q) from Micklewood Close to the Editorial Group. We would like to include more news from the Longhirst Hall estate, so if you have any ideas or articles please do not hesitate to contact her or any other member on the Editorial Group (see final page).

MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

The majority of the recently developed properties have now been sold (or are under offer) including four of the five detached houses at the end of Micklewood Close. The apartments are about to be released and hopefully this will be the end of the development within the boundary of Longhirst Hall, but watch this space.

Mr Cowell has undertaken a considerable amount of work dredging and creating ponds, clearing woodland and rhododendrons. This has opened up the ground between the boundary wall and the cricket pitch behind his newly created fence.

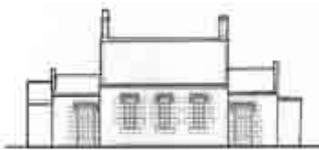
In spite of promises to create a path there is still no direct access to the Village leaving residents with the choice of either walking along the narrow pavement at the side of the B1337 (which is not very safe) or cutting through onto Dairy Lane and annoying the local residents. We are hoping the situation will be resolved shortly.

Micklewood residents met on the 19th September and agreed to form a Residents Committee. Hopefully this will move forward some of the issues with Dere Street Homes and Mr Cowell.

On a more positive note, many species have been spotted on and around the pond behind my house including otters, deer, moorhens, ducks, swans, heron and even a trio of cormorants, and as with all visitors some more welcome than others!

Janet Quinn

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Trustees are pleased to report that the whole of the rear car park has now been covered with soil reinforcement mesh so there should be no more problems with cars getting stuck in the wet. The internal redecoration planned for weekends during late October, November and early December is still on track. The Trustees are pleased to support the re-introduction of 'PUB NIGHTS' (see page 1) and hope that they can continue on a regular basis.

This is the time of year when we hold our AGM and you all have an opportunity to elect or re-elect the four Village Trustees and to express your views about the Hall and how it is run. The current local Trustees are Beryl Gibson, Keith Launchbury, Margaret Lediard and Ian Thompson and all four are prepared to stand for another year. However, change is always healthy for an organisation and if you would like to nominate someone else for one of those roles, please feel free to do so using the nomination papers that come with this issue of the Longhirst Leader.

The AGM takes place at the Village Hall on **Thursday 22nd November** starting at 7.00pm.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Village Show, including helpers, entrants, judges and visitors. It was a huge success with even more entrants and more visitors than last year coming to admire the exhibits and enjoy the tombola, raffle, teas and of course the ever popular auction. The profit from this year's show was £291.09. Profits are spent supporting the Village in many ways, for example we have bought new tables, table cloths, crockery and display boards for the Village Hall, purchased trees for Paddock Wood, supported the Open Gardens and so forth. If you have any ideas as to how some of this year's profit may be used please get in touch. A full list of results can be seen on the Village Facebook page (v) and on the Village Hall notice board. The Morpeth Herald also listed this year's well deserved trophy winners.

Adult Trophy winners for best entry in:

- Vegetables - Bob Jackson Flowers - Bob Jackson Cookery - Phoebe Cottiss*
- Photographs - Myra Jackson Arts and Crafts - Sandy Egan-Fowler
- Exhibitor gaining most points in Flowers and Vegetables - Bob Jackson
- Exhibitor gaining most points in Cookery, Photographs and Crafts - Pam Bolton

Junior Trophy winners for best entry in:

- 'Bake' - Phoebe Cottiss 'Make' - Phoebe Cottiss 'Snap' - Finn Cottiss
- Alan Hagerty Memorial Trophies : Gabrielle Penfold, Daniel Hourigan, Ethan Hourigan and Thomas Weerasooria

*In winning the best entry in the Cookery Section, young Phoebe Cottiss (a junior) beat the adults as well as the other juniors - congratulations Phoebe!

At our usual meeting to review how the Show went this year, we decided to change our name from 'Longhirst Garden Association' to '**Longhirst Village Show Association**'. We also decided to make changes to some of the classes for next year - here is advance notice of changes in the Photograph Section so that you can start snapping:-

- 'Seascape' changes to '**Coastal Scenery**' 'Wild animal(s)' changes to '**Animal(s)**'
- 'Pet(s)' changes to '**A Seasonal Scene**' 'A Northumbrian Event' changes to '**Food**'

Finally, if you would like to get involved or have any ideas about how we could make the Show even better, or how to encourage even more people to enter next year, please let us know.

Carol Benbow (p)

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)
August	Ticket No. 187 Maureen Lowes	Ticket No. 215 Sylvia Welbury	Ticket No. 50 Linda Mowbray
September	Ticket No. 65 Adrian Kirk	Ticket No. 212 Alex McGhee	Ticket No. 230 Janet Quinn

Mike Elphick

OBITUARY

SYLVIA WELBURY : 23rd November 1927 - 18th August 2018

Sylvia was born in Mansfield and was the eldest surviving child of 11. She moved to Guidepost at a young age and then to London for her first job at the Cumberland Hotel which was bombed during the Second World War. Sylvia's first husband, Thomas, sadly died and she met her second husband, William, at the East Mill Morpeth where they both worked making garments for soldiers. They married in 1954 and began married life in Pegswood, before moving to Longhirst. They lived in Mansfield from 1966-69 but then returned to Longhirst where Sylvia lived ever since.



She always supported the Village Hall and the Church and when the Carol Singers came around they never had to knock, she'd be there waiting with her donation and would always ask them to sing Silent Night. One of her highlights was to go to the Village Hall for the Luncheon Club. She loved it, mixing with her friends, and as Sylvia would say, "where else can you get a two-course meal and good company for £5?" Even on the Wednesday before she died, she was sat up in her bed with a smile on her face, looking forward to her meal coming from the Luncheon Club. Last year her family organised a surprise 90th birthday party for her in the Village Hall and the large room was filled with relatives and friends from the Village and beyond.

Sylvia would have been delighted to know that £187 was collected for Cancer Research at her thanksgiving service at the Church. She will be sadly missed by her three children Maureen, Lynne and Billy, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two great-great-grandchildren and all those who knew her.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Over the second weekend of October our **Harvest Festival** celebrations will be at St Andrew's Church in Bothal and we warmly invite you all to join us. On **Friday 12th**, between 7 and 9pm we have a **Ceilidh**. Tickets are £6 for adults and £1 for children. This includes supper and soft drinks and please feel free to bring your own alcohol. Tickets are available from Mike Elphick (c). Then on Sunday 14th our Harvest Festival Communion Service is at 9.30am with all donations of non-

perishable food being given to the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.

Our joint Morning Holy Communion and Evening Services at St John's Longhirst and St Andrew's Bothal are as follows:-

October 7th - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm at Bothal

October 14th - 9.30am Harvest Festival at Bothal and 4pm at Longhirst

October 21st - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm at Bothal

October 28th - 9.30am at Bothal and 4pm at Longhirst

November 4th - 9.30am at Longhirst

November 11th - 9.30am at Bothal, 10.55 at Longhirst War Memorial - **Act of Remembrance**

November 18th - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm at The Rectory

November 25th - 9.30am at Bothal and 4pm at The Rectory

We have a **JUMBLE SALE** coming up on **Friday 26th October** at 6pm in the Village Hall. We are always amazed at all the wonderful donations you send, so please don't disappoint us this year. You can leave your contributions in the Village Hall from Wednesday 24th October or if you would like them collected please contact Jill (e).

On Friday 30th November do join us for a Pie and pea Supper followed by a Beetle Drive, an evening not to miss. For more details contact Carol Robson (f). Please note that this year our Christmas Coffee Morning is on Saturday 8th December (not the usual first Saturday in December) from 10am in the Village Hall. Once again we will have a range of stalls and our usual raffles. If you would like a stall, or know someone who would, please let me know. We always donate the money we raise from Carol Singing and the Family Carol Service to a local charity. We would welcome your suggestions. Thank you.

Jill Elphick (e)

VICAR'S LETTER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018



Late one Sunday afternoon a week or two back I was about to close up at Bothal Church after the service when two visitors arrived and had a look around. On their way out they said they were especially intrigued by the War Memorial which stands outside the Church by the road. They wanted to know why the dates inscribed on it for the First World War were 1914-1919 and not 1914-1918. It is the same on our War Memorial in Longhirst Village. As we all know the ceasefire or armistice that ended hostilities came into effect on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, 1918 and is why this year the centenary of the ending of the war is being celebrated. So why 1919 and not 1918 on the War Memorials? The best explanation I could offer was that the armistice was one thing but the formal peace treaty which was eventually signed at the famous French palace of Versailles took much longer to work out and was not completed until June 1919. However, it was in November 1918 that Europe breathed a collective sigh of relief that the "Great War" had finally come to an end and naturally enough huge crowds gathered in most European cities that day to celebrate the end of a conflict that had claimed the lives of millions of people both military and civilian.

The visitors' observation about the dates on the War Memorial however made me think more carefully about what is meant by peace. Is peace just a mere absence of open conflict as in the ceasefire of 1918 which we will remember this year? Or does peace demand rather more than that? Is not peace more of a process by which former enemies agree to recognise their differences and attempt to find a path to reconciliation through negotiation with each other? Does it not involve a commitment to create conditions where a common good is possible, where all sides may flourish and peace in the longer term become more likely? Such things take longer to work out, hence the date 1919 stands on the Longhirst and Bothal War Memorials. Next year perhaps might be a more fitting time to reflect on how well the "peacemakers" of 1919 did. This year however as we gather here in Longhirst at the War Memorial just before 11am for our annual Remembrance Sunday vigil and then move on to the Village Hall afterwards for refreshments, we may appreciate the profound thankfulness for the cessation of hostilities by a generation of people who had lived and suffered through the catastrophe that unfolded between 1914 and 1918.

PS. **ADVENT SUNDAY TOY SERVICE.** Last year we at St. John's won an award from the Cedarwood Centre in North Shields for our annual gift of Christmas presents for distribution among low income families in the Meadowell area of North Shields. This year our Advent Sunday Toy Service takes place at 10am on **Sunday 2nd December** and we will again be collecting presents for children and teenagers. Even if you can't make the service we would be pleased to receive a present from you to send on. If you wish to know more please contact me on 01670 510793.

Rev'd John Park

THANK YOU

From Linda and Edwin Mowbray to everyone who supported their Open Garden Weekend. It was enjoyed by all and they raised £188 for St. John's Church from donations.

To Carol Robson and everyone who supported the Afternoon Tea event which raised £550 for St. John's Church.

From Rev. Lee Cleminson to everyone who provided photographs and information for the Baptism Exhibition at St. Andrew's, Bothal and to all who supported the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Wednesday 3 rd	11.45 Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 12 th	7pm Harvest Ceilidh at Bothal	(e)
Saturday 13 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(e)
	11.30am Open Gardens 2019 meeting	
Tuesday 16 th	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 17 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 19 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Friday 26 th	6pm Jumble Sale in the Village Hall	(e)
Sunday 28 th	British summer time ends remember to put your clocks back 1 hour	
Sunday 28 th	Village walk in Northumberland	(l)

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1 st	7pm Parish Council in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Wednesday 7 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 9 th	Deadline for items for the December/January Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 10 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
Sunday 11 th	10.55am Act of Remembrance at Longhirst War Memorial Followed by "Welcome" Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(b)
Tuesday 20 th	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 21 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 22 nd	7pm Parish Association AGM in the Village Hall	(c)
Friday 30 th	7pm Pie and Pea Supper followed by Beetle Drive	(f)

REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Junior Activities Club (7 - 14 yrs) in Village Hall every Tuesday during term time
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery 5th/19th October and 2nd/16th/30th November

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday 2nd December - 10am Advent Toy Service at St. John's

Saturday 8th December - St John's Church Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th December - Carol Singing around the Parish

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 : Revlleecleminson@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)

Longhirst Village Show 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)

Village Pub Nights - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : the.tordoffs@btinternet.com (h)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall - Maureen Carrick 458674 / e-mail : maureencarrick@talktalk.net (m)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - (u)

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

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

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

Jill Elphick - Howarth Cottage:790764, jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

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)

Janet Quinn - 38 Micklewood Park : 790360, quinnjanet@sky.com (q)



**Our sincere thanks to
North East Grains
for printing this magazine**

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