

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## April / May 2019

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*The Longhirst Leader was first produced in 2002 and this is the 100<sup>th</sup> edition. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to its content, production, printing and delivery over the last 17 years.*

### OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND- SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> & SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE



There will be lots going on during the Open Gardens Weekend. As well as the gardens that are opening, there will be the usual excellent refreshments in the Village Hall, the Church will be open to visitors, and there will be other events and activities including a Songs of Praise service in St John's Church on the Friday evening. Details will be on the website [www.longhirstopengardens.org](http://www.longhirstopengardens.org).

Here are some ways you can **get involved** if you would like to help out...

**Minibus drivers for park and ride.** We need some volunteer drivers to drive the minibus from the park and ride car park near North East Grains to the Village. You will need to be younger than 70 years old and have category D1 on your driving licence; this should be there if you passed your test before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997 or you have taken a minibus test and had this category added.

We also need:

- Stewards for **car parking, selling tickets** etc.
- People to help with **catering**
- People to **sell ice creams**
- **Food supplies** for the Village Hall lunches and teas. Donations of homemade chutney and jam and, if you have your own chickens, eggs would be much appreciated
- **Posters and publicity leaflets** must be displayed and distributed to publicise the Weekend

For the **Songs of Praise** in St John's Church on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June we would like to know if you have a **favourite hymn** you would like included in the service? If you do please send details, and maybe a little information about why it is important to you, to John Park (b).

Please contact Jill McManus (o) if you would like to get involved or would like further information.

All proceeds from the Weekend will be shared between St. John's Church, for refurbishment, and the Village Hall.

Many thanks.

The Open Gardens Organisers

### MILLENNIUM/PADDOCK WOOD

Do take a walk around the Millennium Wood and see all the maintenance work that the contractors are doing at present. They have cleared a lot of the bushes near the bridle path and have started to lay the hedge down the boundary. It looks good!

Jill Elphick

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The March meeting was well attended with around 30 residents present. Glen Fahy was co-opted to fill the **vacancy** on the Parish Council.

The new Parish Council **noticeboard** has been erected at the entrance to Micklewood Close.

The new Openreach cabinet is now providing **high speed broadband** to Ashington exchange numbers on the eastern side of the Parish.

The Pegswood Road has been fully **resurfaced** and new gullies installed. Replacement road markings have also been provided at the entrance to Longhirst Hall. Thanks were given to County Councillor David Towns for pressing for this work to be carried out. Concerns were expressed over the state of the footpath along Pegswood Road and the condition of the carriageway on the Linton Road east of the centre of the Village.

The renewal of the annual **lease of the "Football Field"** on the south side of the Linton Road has been agreed.

There is still no progress with the **reopening of the pedestrian access** at the rear of Longhirst Hall. Peter Coates has arranged a meeting with County Councillor Glen Sanderson to look at the situation as David Towns has declared a conflict of interest in the matter. Further news over the construction of the external lift at the Hall is awaited from NCC planning officers.

Enterpen Ltd. has held a Residents Meeting to outline their proposals to **develop 10 bungalows** in the field ("Domino's Field") immediately NW of the Village. The submission of a formal planning application is awaited.

A planning application has been submitted by North East Grains to construct an **anaerobic digester** at their premises. Several residents expressed concern over the size of the proposed digester, the implications for the increase in traffic levels and associated issues such as pollution, smells and noise. There were also questions over the provision of means to connect to the national grid. It was agreed to object to the application and seek further information on these issues.

The promised NCC Highways report on the re-siting of **speed limit signs** is still awaited. David Towns agreed to provide funding for a new flashing speed warning sign at both the south and north ends of the Village in the new financial year.

Glen Fahy asked if any information is available about the **Country Park** that should have been opened once the Potland Opencast site was restored. Further information will be sought.

The Council agreed to meet the cost of the Village Hall hire for the NCC **"Basic Introduction to the Internet"** course that starts on 20<sup>th</sup> March (4 afternoons over 4 weeks) aimed at absolute beginners.

The **next meeting** will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** and all residents are invited to attend.

Peter Coates

## LONGHIRST VILLAGE WEBSITE

Responsibility for the Village website ([longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://longhirstvillage.co.uk)) has recently been taken over by Chris Marr and with the help of Ray Robson he plans to update it. It already contains a lot of useful information such as the Welcome Booklet, Village Hall bookings, upcoming events, and copies of the Leader going back to 2016. Chris and Ray are keen to add a gallery and for both that and the front page they need **photographs of the Parish** as soon as possible. If you can help please send your contributions to Chris (u).

## MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

A new noticeboard has been erected just inside the gates of Micklewood. Thank you Longhirst Parish Council and Ian Thompson for erecting it. This will be a very useful tool to keep residents of Micklewood aware of activities on Micklewood and in Longhirst Parish.

A residents meeting was held at the Cricket Club on 13<sup>th</sup> March. An agenda was circulated to all residents and placed on our new notice board. The meeting was well attended by approximately 30 residents and a number of issues discussed. The new committee introduced themselves to residents, but it was agreed that this committee has no legal standing and rectifying this should be pursued as a priority. As a consequence, decisions on a number of items on the agenda were deferred. It was generally felt that a social night/barbecue (possibly in June) would be beneficial. We would welcome residents of the adjoining estate around Longhirst Hall. We would like to thank the Cricket Club for allowing us to use their clubhouse to host the meeting.

Janet Quinn

## CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am - 2.30pm

Longhirst Village Hall

Many local crafts people will be setting up their stalls offering a wide range of items including original paintings, decorated glass, driftwood and needle felted animals, decorated candles, cards and gift wrap, handbags, rosewood and marquetry boxes with a secret locking mechanism and a variety of local produce.

**Wonderful homemade refreshments including bacon butties and soup**

FREE ENTRY and all proceeds in aid of St. John's Church

An event not to be missed! For more information contact Jill Elphick (e)

## WELCOME



Alvaro Villabona and James Millward recently moved into the Old Post Office and Chris and Carole Melville are now in No. 19 The Village. We hope they will all be very happy here and look forward to seeing them at future events.

## VILLAGE WEDDING

Some of you may know that our daughter Julia is marrying her fiancé Martin on **Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Julia was born and brought up in the Village so some of you will remember her. The wedding service is at 2.30pm in St. John's Church and both the couple and ourselves would be delighted to see any who wish to come to the service and help them celebrate their special day.

Chris and Margaret Lediard



## OBITUARY

It is with regret that we inform you of the death of Mrs Doris Robinson of 32 Straker Terrace, Longhirst Colliery who passed away on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at the age of 93 years. Doris and Tom Robinson have been residents in the Colliery since 1992.

Bob Jackson

## MESSIAH

The Mid Northumberland Chorus is performing parts 2 and 3 of the Messiah on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**, 7.30pm at St. James in Morpeth. For more information and tickets at £10 each please contact Jill or Mike Elphick (e)

## LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



This year's Village Show will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September** starting at 2pm in the Village Hall and now is the time to start planning your planting and growing for the Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers classes. Three **new classes** have been added to these sections this year - '**6 Standard Tomatoes**', '**6 Cherry Tomatoes**' and '**2 Sunflowers**'.

Four classes have been changed in the Photographic section - '**Coastal Scene**', '**Animal(s)**', '**A Seasonal Scene**' and '**Food**' replace 'Seascape', 'Wild Animal(s)', 'Pet(s)' and 'A Northumbrian Event'. An exciting new class has been added to the Cookery section. This is the '**Decorated Hedgehog Themed Cake**'. The winner of this class won't be decided by the judge, but will be the cake receiving the most votes from visitors to the Show. Inspired by photos sent into 'Bake Off' of viewers' attempts at making a cake in the shape of a hedgehog, this class should bring some added fun to the Cookery section. So throw caution to the wind and have go!

To make the Village Show as much fun as possible, please get involved - even if you are an absolute novice. The Show really isn't a show without you. We love to attract visitors to our Village to enjoy the Show, but need plenty of exhibits (successes and failures!) for them to see. We'd like to encourage all the young people in the Parish to join in and welcome any suggestions and ideas for future Shows.

A copy of the full Schedule will be issued shortly. If you would like to know some do's and don'ts and get some easy to follow common sense advice with helpful pictures, the RHS book 'Great British Village Show' is available for loan from Carol Benbow (p). A few hints and tips from will be included in future issues of the Longhirst Leader.

Carol Benbow

Carol Robson invites you to a **WILDLIFE WATCH DAY** in aid of St. John's Church  
at **ROSE COTTAGE, ULGHAM LANE** on **WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL**



10.00am - 12.00noon Coffee/tea and scones  
2.00pm - 4.00pm Tea/coffee and cake

Raffle and Bottle Tombola  
£5 per session, includes refreshment



Come with your friends to enjoy a peaceful haven and watch the wildlife.  
**Tickets from Carol Robson (f), Sibell Pigg (790354) and Dorothy McMillan (d).**

Parking is limited so please car share if possible.

## USED STAMPS FOR BONE CANCER RESEARCH

Please save your used stamps and put them in the box in the Village Hall or give them to Anne Atkinson or Linda Mowbray.

**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**



The Trustees are pleased to report that the damaged library fire escape door frame and the front door and its frame have been replaced. Thanks are due to Colin Bentham who undertook this work.

However, the Hall's central heating boiler broke down half way through March and the Trustees need to decide whether to undertake an expensive repair or to go for a replacement boiler which might ultimately contribute to our being able to upgrade the central heating system. A range of estimates are being sought with a view to an early decision being made. In consequence, the Board of Trustees have deferred decisions on all other expenditure.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

**CHURCH NOTICE BOARD**

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

7<sup>th</sup> April - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

14<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday service 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm in Rectory

21<sup>st</sup> April - EASTER SUNDAY 9.30 Holy Communion at St. John's

28<sup>th</sup> April - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Lee's Farewell Service 4pm at St. John's

5<sup>th</sup> May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's

12<sup>th</sup> May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm at St. John's

19<sup>th</sup> May - Family Service 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's

26<sup>th</sup> May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm at St. John's



We have had two very happy and successful fund raising events recently and we thank you all for your generous support. The Foodies Evening in February raised £410 and the Bridge Singers Musical evening raised £567.

Events to look forward to are the **Wildlife Watch Day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** (see page 4), **Lee's Farewell service** at St. John's on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** at 4pm followed by refreshments and the **Church Fete on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

Jill Elphick (e)

**THE LONGHIRST HUNDRED CLUB**

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

Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£60)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£40)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£20)
February	Ticket No. 181 <b>Sarah Philips</b>	Ticket No. 135 <b>Tim Oakley</b>	Ticket No. 2 <b>Mike Elphick for Rachel</b>
March	Ticket No. 190 <b>Alan Wooldridge for Reece</b>	Ticket No. 68 <b>Bill Wake</b>	Ticket No. 25 <b>Dorothy McMillan</b>

Now is the time to join or renew membership of the Longhirst Hundred club. If you have not signed a standing order you should have received a letter from me in March. If you have not heard from me and would like to join, please let me know.

Mike Elphick (c)

## FAREWELL FROM REVD. LEE CLEMINSON



God works in mysterious ways. Three years ago I found myself sitting in a monastery writing an article introducing myself as your new curate and once again (this time not in a monastery) I find myself writing, but this time to say farewell. You may be aware that the bishop of Newcastle has appointed me to a new and exciting post - Priest in charge of St Peter's, Balkwell and St John's, Percy Main in North Shields.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Revd. Canon John Park and serving the people in the Parishes of Bothal and Pegswood with Longhirst as your curate. It's certainly been busy! A big part of my role has been meeting people at different stages of their spiritual journey, leading Sunday and mid-week worship, taking school assemblies, serving Christmas dinners at the Welfare, chatting to people in the Hub, learning to knit at Pegswood Chapel and delivering hundreds of blankets to the Special Care Baby Unit at the RVI, building up relationships through pastoral visiting, meeting people at Longhirst Lunch Club, officiating at many weddings, baptising adults and children and sadly, taking the funerals of so many of your loved ones and friends.

I remember leaving theological college like it was only yesterday. Feeling nervous about ordination and settling into an area that was totally new to me. I had been used to the busy flow of life in the Benwell area and to serve my curacy in rural Northumberland was a huge change, a good change - and something I wouldn't change- bringing me out of my comfort zone and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of being your curate.

But one thing that has deeply touched me since my time here is what I call a 'GOD INCIDENT.' One day, I went to visit a lady in a care home. It's often difficult to keep a conversation, due to the severity of her dementia. But this day I took her a gift, a cream cake (from Glenton's of course!) and she devoured the lot. When she finished it I offered to clean the cream from her hands, but she wouldn't allow me, and enjoyed every moment of licking the remains off. After praying with her before I left, she just gripped my hand and looked at me with a huge grin. We often look for God in extraordinary places and miss Him engaging with us in the ordinary day to day things we do. That day the kingdom of God had been revealed in the breaking of a cream cake! Sometimes we think that we have to use a lot of words to comfort people, that day I didn't speak a single word, I was simply present with a cream cake and it made the world of difference. I reflect daily on the promises I made, alongside many others, the day I was ordained, "Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?" When Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me" he was speaking about the demographics. I have been called to serve here: people who are poor in spirit, those who are lonely and mournful and those celebrating some of the highest moments of their life. You have all become Eucharistic to me, and I have personally experienced God through you.

I have really enjoyed my curacy, working, praying and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with and alongside Revd. Canon John Park and the people of Bothal, Pegswood and Longhirst. I will always cherish and be thankful to God, for my time here with you. You've all been amazing and have taught me so much, especially how to draw a raffle and auction off fruit and veg at the Village Show.

Of course I'm not gone yet, and you are all warmly invited to my final service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm at St. John's.

Every blessing to you all.

Revd. Lee Cleminson

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Co-op at Widdrington has an instore **Post Office** that is open 7 days a week and there is a **mobile Post Office** at De-Waldron Terrace, Pegswood on Thursdays between 2 and 4pm.

The **NCC Mobile Library** stops in Longhirst Village near the post box on alternate Friday mornings at 10am for 15 minutes. The dates are always given below under 'Regular Events' at the end of the Diary. This is a service that might be under threat, so please use it.

The **mobile fish van** from Ross Dougal in Eyemouth parks in the Village near the War Memorial on a Friday morning at 8.15am.

Jill Elphick

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am - 2.30pm <b>CRAFT FAIR</b> in the Village Hall (see page 3)	(e)
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall NO VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING	(r) (e)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Holy week Communion at St. John's	(b)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Maundy Thursday Holy communion at St. John's	(b)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am Easter Sunday communion at St. John's	(b)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10 - 12 & 2 - 4pm Wildlife Watch Day at Rose Cottage (see page 4)	(f)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Late blue bin collection after Easter Bank Holiday	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	4pm Rev. Lee Cleminson's Farewell service at St. John's	(b)

### MAY

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Deadline for items for the June/July Longhirst Leader</b> <b>e-mail to <a href="mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com">claire@petercoates.plus.com</a></b>	<b>Editorial Group</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Late Blue bin collection after Bank Holiday	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Family Service at St. John's	(b)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Late Black bin collection after Bank Holiday	

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Junior Activities Club (7 - 14 yrs) 6.30 - 7.30pm in Village Hall every Tuesday until 9<sup>th</sup> April
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm
- Mobile Library - 10am in Village on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May (Staff holidays in April)

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Open Gardens and Open Church Weekend**  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July - Church Fete  
 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Village Show

## 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](mailto:ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk) (a)
- Vicar** - Rev. John Park 510793 / e-mail : [johnp2910@gmx.co.uk](mailto:johnp2910@gmx.co.uk) (b)
- Assistant Curate** - Rev. Lee Cleminson 519398 / e-mail : [Revlleecleminson@gmail.com](mailto:Revlleecleminson@gmail.com) (j)
- Churchwardens** - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail : [dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk) (d)  
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- PCC Secretary** - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [jill.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.elphick1@gmail.com) (e)
- Mothers' Union** - Angela Mason 517872 / e-mail : [angela148@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela148@hotmail.co.uk) (g)
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- Badminton** - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : [claire@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com) (k)
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- Longhirst Hundred Club** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)
- Parish Voluntary Litter Clearance** - Chris Lediard 790268 / [chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk) (r)
- Village Coffee Mornings** - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [jill.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.elphick1@gmail.com) (e)
- Village Pub Nights** - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : [the.tordoffs@btinternet.com](mailto:the.tordoffs@btinternet.com) (h)
- Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** - Maureen Carrick 458674 / e-mail : [maureencarrick@talktalk.net](mailto:maureencarrick@talktalk.net) (m)
- Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings** - Allan Scott 07807 026148 / e-mail : [scottyontyne@hotmail.com](mailto:scottyontyne@hotmail.com) (s)
- Village Website** - [www.longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://www.longhirstvillage.co.uk) - 790196 / e-mail : [chrismarr@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismarr@btinternet.com) (u)
- Village Facebook page** - [https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel) (v)
- Church Website** - [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

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