

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## April / May 2021

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### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The deep clean of the kitchen, its cupboards and all their contents has now been completed and we are ready for the re-opening of the Luncheon Club once Government regulations allow. We are still awaiting the replacement lighting panels for the main Hall but have been assured that they will be arriving shortly. The plans for the Library are in hand and we are awaiting estimates for this work. Finally, we have put in an order for the Hall to be connected to the telephone system so that we can become a wi-fi hot spot allowing users to connect to the internet.



The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

### VILLAGE WEBSITE - GALLERY SECTION ADDED

The Village website is at present being updated and a 'Gallery' section has been added to display photographs. There are three sections at the moment 'Village', 'Church' and 'Wildlife'. There are only a few images at present, apart from the wildlife section which already has some beautiful pictures. I am happy to add further images as long as they are of reasonable quality. This is the wording from the intro section which explains issues about permissions and removing images if people are concerned or unhappy about being in them:

"Some of the pictures taken in and around the Village. Please do not copy or download these images without the permission of the person taking them. Ensure that you have consent from any individual who appears in photographs before sending them for upload. If anyone wishes a photo containing their image to be removed please [contact me here](#)"

Please let me know if you have any further thoughts, or concerns.

Chris Marr (u)

### CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We intend to resume worship and to celebrate Easter in our local churches this year but probably not quite as we usually do, what with social distancing and being unable to sing hymns. Nevertheless service times are :

**Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 7pm** - Holy Communion Service at St. Andrew's, Bothal

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2pm - 3pm** Service at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood

**Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am** - Holy Communion Service at St. John's, Longhirst

Socially distanced Sunday morning worship will then resume on the familiar weekly basis at 9.30am: first and third Sundays in the month at St. John's, Longhirst, second and fourth Sundays at St. Andrew's, Bothal. On May 30<sup>th</sup> it will be at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood at 10.15am.

Please consult our websites: [www.standrewsbothal.btck.co.uk](http://www.standrewsbothal.btck.co.uk) [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk)

John Park (b)

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March (by Zoom) a resident, Jim Lamont, drew attention to the gullies that had recently been installed on **Butcher's Lane** (leading to Pegswood) which are now blocked by soil running off the fields resulting in repeated flooding across the carriageway and footpath. The footpath itself is also deteriorating quite badly and the surface was damaged in the past when NCC tried

to clear the overgrown edges with a machine. All the councillors agreed with the comments and explained that many requests for repairs had been made to the County Council over a period of several years, most recently with the support of Pegswood Parish Council. County Councillor David Towns agreed to arrange a site meeting with NCC staff in an effort to resolve the matter.

Jon Mills and Andy Robson on behalf of **Micklewood and Longhirst Hall Residents Associations** respectively both commented on the slow progress being made with the construction of two new houses in the field north of Dairy Lane. Construction work on the first property seemed to have been taken down more than once and the reasons for this are unknown. Permission for the "hole in the wall" providing access to the site for construction traffic through from Longhirst Hall has only been given for 2 years and concern is growing that the time table will not be met. The Council agreed to raise the issue with the NCC Planning Enforcement Team if progress does not improve.

Jon Mills plans to survey all of the **local public footpaths** on behalf of the Parish Council, checking their suitability and state of repair. He has made contact with Tony Derbyshire (Countryside Officer at NCC) and has obtained a copy of the Definitive Map for the Parish. He would welcome help from any volunteers willing to help with this task. Please contact Jon ([jhpmills@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhpmills@hotmail.co.uk)).

Several **planning applications** have been submitted to the County Council for new dwellings at the **Station Cottages**. The Parish Council has passed information supplied by a local resident to NCC and the outcome of their deliberations is awaited.

The refusal of the planning application for 10 new bungalows in **Domino's Field** at the NW end of Longhirst Village was again welcomed by the Parish Council. The developer has until early July to appeal against the decision.

Advance Northumberland and NCC have cleared the ditch downstream of the flooding site on the **Ashington Road** which means that most of the water is at least draining away. Work to prevent flow across the road and coming down the drain from the south is still outstanding. Three old manholes in the east verge remain with only temporary covers. David Towns agreed to contact Advance about the drainage work.

NCC have agreed to spend **£90,000 repairing Station Road** between the centre of the Village and North East Grains. This news was warmly welcomed

Updates to the 3 Year **Parish Council Plan** were agreed and are now available for inspection on the Parish Council website (x).

Peter Coates outlined initial proposals for a potential future **Longhirst Wildlife Project** covering the whole Parish. Options to look at the development of the Millennium Wood, and the inclusion of other woodlands, fields and domestic gardens were briefly discussed and the intention would be to

increase the numbers of wildlife and involve as many residents as possible. The project would hopefully be managed by a Steering Group of volunteers. Council members welcomed the concept and agreed to discuss this further at the Annual Meeting in May.

**Parish Council elections** together with those for the County Council and the Northumbria Police Commissioner will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Existing and prospective new councillors will have to be nominated for election (details have already been circulated to residents in an e-supplement and posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall).

Catherine Farrell and Maureen Lowes will not be standing for re-election.

**The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May and this will also be the Annual Parish Council Meeting starting at 6pm.** Government regulations are still awaited so these may be physical meetings in the Village Hall or virtual Zoom meetings. All residents are invited to attend and full details will be issued through the usual channels as soon as possible.

Peter Coates (k)

## THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to express its appreciation of the long service of Maureen Lowes and Catherine Farrell who are both standing down in May. Maureen celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of last year and has been a Council member for some 40 years. Catherine has been on the Council for at least 12 years and became Chair in May 2015. She has subsequently overseen some significant changes to the organisation. We are highly indebted to both of them.

## NUISANCE TELEPHONE CALLS

Following an increase of reported nuisance telephone calls to people in the Parish here are a few ways of reducing them. Please note these methods do not all work with mobile phones and contact with your network supplier/mobile phone instructions would be advisable. Mobile companies have their own solutions to call barring/blocking. Modern mobile phones usually have settings which will immediately allow you to block and report spam calls. I have the landline BT call blocking phones and am on the TPS service and I very rarely receive unwanted calls.

1. Telephone Preference Service (TPS): the TPS is free to use and is a register which records your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. It can be used for landline and mobile numbers (0345 0700707, [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)).
2. Contact your landline operator: BT Call Protect is a service that will send nuisance and unwanted calls to a junk voicemail. It will help to stop the worst offending nuisance and scam calls, as well as providing you with the control to stop other unwanted calls. It's simple and easy to manage. It's free for BT customers (<http://www.bt.com/help/bt-call-protect>). Other phone suppliers have their own systems and are usually free. Just ask.
3. Buy a phone with a block system: BT, Gigaset and Panasonic all have phones with a system that lets friends and family through but will either block calls (such as those automated ones from abroad) or allow calls through with the option to block them in the future if you wish. (<https://shop.bt.com/guides/ideas-inspirations/how-to-block-all-nuisance-calls>).

Richard Tordoff

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Audio Recordings

Hello, my name is Julie and I live in the Longhirst Village area. Recently, I've thought that you, your friends and relatives might be interested in the following: I'm in a theatre group called 'Live Wires' which usually meet once a week in Jesmond and we also perform in the local community. Of course, lockdown has changed all this, so some of us have been meeting every week on Zoom instead. We write and perform sketches, monologues, stories and poems and Fran, our director, had the brilliant idea of making audio recordings over Zoom, which can be played on a variety of devices for people to listen to, especially nice for the vulnerable, elderly and lonely.

We are adding to our list regularly, so do take a peek when you have a spare moment. We hope you enjoy! <http://www.livewirestheatrecompany.co.uk/lockdown-entertainment/>

Julie Roberts

## VILLAGE WILDLIFE

The first photo of a Roe deer was taken by Margaret Lediard from her kitchen window on Dairy Lane in early February. It stayed browsing and resting for a couple of hours and clearly still has velvet on its new antlers. The second photo shows the same deer taken about 6 weeks later by Mo Dewar in her garden. The velvet had worn off by then. Three-pointers are unusual and indicate that the buck is quite old.



This albino chaffinch  
Was spotted by Joan  
And Peter McKenzie in  
Their garden in March.

During a late afternoon during the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March, Mike Elphick saw a beautiful creamy coloured barn owl float across his garden, south to north. Half-way across, it rose a little in order to stop its forward motion, fluttered for a second or two so as to maintain its height and then dropped like a stone. At that point he lost sight of it for a few moments and then it rose again with a small mouse or shrew in its beak and continued its silent, gliding flight across his garden into the Millennium Wood. For him, it was about ten seconds of absolute delight.

<b>THE LONGHIRST HUNDRED CLUB</b>
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The winners of the 2020/21 'Hundred Club' draws are:

<b>Month</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Ticket No. 156</b> Andy Bolton	<b>Ticket No. 122</b> Beryl Gibson	<b>Ticket No. 126</b> Luke Vale
<b>May</b>	<b>Ticket No. 117</b> Tim Oakley <i>for Charlotte</i>	<b>Ticket No. 31</b> David Errington <i>for Harvey G.</i>	<b>Ticket No. 38</b> Amanda Bonner-Davis
<b>June</b>	<b>Ticket No. 133</b> Roger Buglas	<b>Ticket No. 125</b> Luke Vale	<b>Ticket No. 4</b> Jill Elphick
<b>July</b>	<b>Ticket No. 109</b> Jim Lamont	<b>Ticket No. 56</b> Claire Coates	<b>Ticket No. 20</b> Adrienne Dobson
<b>August</b>	<b>Ticket No. 58</b> Claire Coates	<b>Ticket No. 196</b> David Flemming <i>for Kate</i>	<b>Ticket No. 11</b> Carol Robson
<b>September</b>	<b>Ticket No. 93</b> Phil Hourigan <i>for Ethan</i>	<b>Ticket No. 166</b> Diane Millmore	<b>Ticket No. 183</b> Anne Carey
<b>October</b>	<b>Ticket No. 155</b> Craig Penfold <i>for Gabrielle</i>	<b>Ticket No. 147</b> Keith Launchbury	<b>Ticket No. 98</b> Dennis Hodges
<b>November</b>	<b>Ticket No. 137</b> Sandy Egan-Fowler	<b>Ticket No. 169</b> Alvaro Villabono	<b>Ticket No. 165</b> Andrew Robson
<b>December</b>	<b>Ticket No. 150</b> Ian Rowling	<b>Ticket No. 36</b> Linda Mowbray	<b>Ticket No. 192</b> Alan Wooldridge
<b>January</b>	<b>Ticket No. 130</b> Marie Labus	<b>Ticket No. 114</b> Katherine Lamont	<b>Ticket No. 70</b> Jane Anderson
<b>February</b>	<b>Ticket No. 173</b> Julie Harris	<b>Ticket No. 204</b> P. McKenzie <i>for Sarah</i>	<b>Ticket No. 22</b> Adrienne Dobson <i>for Elizabeth</i>
<b>March</b>	<b>Ticket No. 144</b> Allison Tordoff	<b>Ticket No. 163</b> Jill McManus	<b>Ticket No. 54</b> Peter Coates

Normally, this list of Hundred Club winners would be displayed on the Village Hall notice board and of course it will be when the Hall re-opens, but in the meantime, here is the 2020/21 list for your information.

I shall endeavour to be in touch with all residents, either by post or e:mail, within the next few weeks to invite you to join or re-join the Hundred Club. If I have missed you by the end of March, please do not hesitate to bring such an error to my attention. My contact details are on the back page.

Mike Elphick (c)

## VICAR'S LETTER



I never cease to be amazed by the questions youngsters ask. One such was during a school visit to Bothal Church a couple of years back. It was near Easter and we had been looking at the five hundred year old stained glass window depicting the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, when a bright young lad asked a pertinent question: "If all those bad things happened to Jesus on Good Friday why is it called Good and not Bad Friday?" He had touched on the deepest of the mysteries of the Christian faith.

After congratulating him on thinking up such a profound question, the best I could do in response was to say that Good Friday was bad for Jesus but good for us ... good for us, bad for Jesus. Why good for us? One answer to that lies in the so-called "words of dereliction" which Jesus uttered from the cross just before he died: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" That the Son of God should feel utterly alone and abandoned, even by God, is surely the deepest of mysteries. Yet it is in the god-forsakenness of Jesus on Good Friday that we can find the heart and soul of all Christian hope and consolation.

Because of the events of Good Friday there can be for us no human experience that God, in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, has not also experienced. Therefore even in our darkest moments, when our world seems to be falling apart we can be confident that God knows first-hand what life can throw at us and goes through it with us because Jesus first went through it for us. But remember, Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of Christ from the dead: God had not abandoned Jesus after all, which of course was good for Jesus and good for us.

John Park (b)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7pm Holy Communion Service at St. Andrew's Bothal	(b)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2pm - 3pm Service at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood	(b)
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Late blue bin collection	

### MAY

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Council elections in the Village Hall	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for February / March Longhirst Leader</b> e-mail to <a href="mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com">clairecoates32@gmail.com</a>	Ed. Group
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6pm Parish Council Annual Meeting	(a)

For all local Church Services see page 1

The Fish Van stops at the War Memorial every Friday between 8.30 and 9.00am

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

**Parish Council Clerk** - Helyn Douglas 826803 / e-mail : [longhirstpc@gmail.com](mailto:longhirstpc@gmail.com) (a)

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

**Churchwardens** - - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)

Heather Jackson 07756 690027 / e-mail : [siriusa1998@aol.com](mailto:siriusa1998@aol.com) (d)

**PCC Secretary** - Dorothy Launchbury 790491 / email: [launching1@outlook.com](mailto:launching1@outlook.com) (e)

**Longhirst Parish Association** - Margaret Lediard 790268 / e-mail : [margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk) (t)

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

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

**Longhirst Village Show Association** - Carol Benbow 790194 / e-mail : [carol\\_benbow@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_benbow@hotmail.com) (p)

**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** - Helen McCabe 790494 / e-mail : [mccabe\\_paul1@sky.com](mailto:mccabe_paul1@sky.com) (n)

**Village Pub Nights** - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : [rtordoffs@gmail.com](mailto:rtordoffs@gmail.com) (h)

**Longhirst Colliery Residents Association** - Norah Dryden 817862 / e-mail : [n.dryden@sky.com](mailto:n.dryden@sky.com) (j)

**Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** -- Bill Dryden 817862. / email : [drydenx2@btinternet.com](mailto:drydenx2@btinternet.com) (m)

**Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings** - MADRS 07570 897979 / [enquiries@madredsquirrels.com](mailto:enquiries@madredsquirrels.com) (s)

**Village Website** - [www.longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://www.longhirstvillage.co.uk) - Chris Marr 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)

**Longhirst Parish Council Website** - <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst> (x)

**Church Website** - [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

### Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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