

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## August / September 2019

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### OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Weekend both from Longhirst and the wider community. (There are far too many people to thank individually here!)

The weather was great, the gardens were gorgeous, the Village Hall catering was brilliant, the signage, Park and Ride and stewarding were superb and the extra attractions were wonderful. All the visitors seemed to be happy and very impressed with the whole event.

We had over 800 visitors and, after all expenses and a donation to the Tynemouth Day Centre for the mini bus, made a record profit of £6700. St. John's Church and the Village Hall will each receive £2750 with the remainder kept for a future starter fund.

We hope you all enjoyed the Weekend and look forward to next time!

Jill McManus

### LIVE THEATRE AT THE VILLAGE HALL

On **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, the Northumberland Theatre Company returns to Longhirst Village Hall with a performance of 'The Stars Look Down', a freely adapted play based on the classic novel by A. J. Cronin. This show will start at 7.30pm with tickets available from Mike Elphick (c) at £10 per adult with accompanied children free. There will be a bar.

We need a good sized audience in order to cover costs or we will not be able to book theatre performances in the future, so please put the date in your diary and support local theatre if you can.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS

For many years now Val Thompson has co-ordinated Longhirst's involvement with the 'Macmillan Coffee Mornings' at the end of September. We used to combine with Ulgham but for the last couple of years we have done our own thing. Sadly, as Val and Ian prepare to move away from the Village, Val feels that she should step down before this year's event. I am sure you would all wish to join me in thanking her for all the work she has done in enabling us to support this most worthwhile cause.

If you, perhaps together with a few others, feel able to organise something for the Village this year so that we can continue our involvement with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning please get in touch with Jill Elphick (e). More information is available on the web site <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/>. Thank you.

Jill Elphick

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July Peter Coates reported that he had met the new Director of Planning at County Hall, Rob Murfin, to discuss the **re-opening of the pedestrian access** at the rear of Longhirst Hall. Mr. Murfin promised to look into the matter and his reply is still awaited.

A meeting was also held with NCC Highways to review the options for **improving speed restriction and other traffic signs** through the Village following the receipt of an NCC report. The Parish Council requested that a new 40mph sign be erected shortly after the Hebron turn approaching Longhirst from Morpeth on the B1337. The 30mph sign should be re-sited just before The Lodge at the old entrance to Longhirst Hall followed by a new flashing speed warning sign just before the new Hall entrance. A second flashing sign should be positioned at the north entrance to the Village. NCC will install **new "gateway" village nameplates** at the south and north ends (replacing the existing damaged composite "Longhirst" and speed warning signs) and on the approaches from Pegswood and the station. It was agreed not to remove the existing white lines through the centre of the Village as this would be quite unsightly. This will be reconsidered if and when the road is resurfaced. The white 30mph signs and the red warning strips painted on the surface of the main road will also be replaced.

The poor state of the south east **entrance to the Millennium Wood** has been raised with the Woodland Trust and their response is awaited.

The **serious flooding of the Ashington Road** will be reported to NCC Highways with a request for urgent remedial action.

**Planning Issues:** A link to the NCC Planning Portal is now available on the Parish Council website. **Anaerobic Digester at North East Grains** (App No. 18/04533/FUL) -NCC has requested further information from NE Grains and there remain significant concerns over the scale of the proposed installation, the increased levels of traffic and further damage to the roads, smells, etc.

**Bungalows, Domino's Field** (19/00991/FUL) - the application is now to be considered by the Planning Committee and a date for the meeting is awaited.

Richard Tordoff reported that a bid for funding for a **Village defibrillator** has been submitted to the NCC Community Chest by the Parish Association. If this is unsuccessful other options, including leasing, will be considered.

Chris Marr has drafted a three year **Parish Council Strategic Plan** and this will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

The recent **Open Gardens Weekend** was agreed to have been a great success with a record number of visitors attending. The Parish Council Chairman will write to the chair of the organising committee to congratulate them on their achievement.

The **next meeting** will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September** in the Village Hall. Peter Coates

## MORPETH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - ST. JOHN'S STEEPLECHASERS

St. John's, Longhirst will be open between 11.00am and 4pm on **Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> September** as part of this Heritage Weekend. Do take this opportunity to visit our beautiful Victorian Parish Church where the servery is now fully operational and light refreshments will be available.

On **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> September** our incredible Steeplechasers are once again going to see how many Churches in Northumberland they can visit and will be seeking your generous sponsorship. Jill Elphick

## LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



**BAKE**



**MAKE**



**SNAP**



**AND**



**GROW**

It's nearly here! This year's Longhirst Village Show will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September** starting at 2pm in the Village Hall and to make it 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 need lots of exhibits (successes and failures!) for visitors to see.

There is a fabulous choice of classes to enter in each of the various sections of Vegetables & Fruit, Flowers, Arts & Crafts, Cookery and Photographs. All of the classes are listed in the Show schedule which you received with the June-July issue of the Longhirst Leader. A copy of the schedule is on the Village website and spare copies can be found in the Village Hall or can be obtained from Carol Benbow. You can submit one entry into as many classes as you like so please take part, the more entries the better! Entry forms can be found at the back of the schedule and can be submitted by e-mail to [show@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:show@petercoates.plus.com). Paper copy entry forms can be posted in the letter box on the Village Hall gate between Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Exhibits can be set up on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning of the weekend of the Show.

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. Here are a few examples of hints and tips from the book:-

**FRUIT.** **Apples** - cut with secateurs to leave the stalk intact. **Plums** - do not wipe clean because the judges like their natural 'bloom'.

**VEGETABLES.** **Onions** - should be well-ripened and firm, with thin necks. Tie the trimmed necks with plain raffia. Displaying on a plate of fine sand can help protect the root from damage and keep the onions stable. **Runner Beans** - the ideal length of runner bean is 25cm/10". Trim the bean stalks to a uniform length. Judges like to see long, flat, straight, fresh young pods, uniform in colour, shape and length. If your beans are longer than 25cm/10", why not enter 'the longest bean' class?

**FLOWERS.** **Gladioli** - judges like to see long, erect spikes with fresh, unblemished blooms and foliage, lots of regularly spaced open and opening flowers with good form, texture and colour. Ideally, one third of buds on each spike should still be green. **Carnations** - judges are keen on fresh, strongly scented, symmetrical flowers with firm petals and a stem length that is proportionate to the size of the flower. They also like to see uniformity in multiple blooms.

**COOKERY.** **Scones** - should be straight-sided, deep, well-risen with a golden bake, fluffy texture and balanced flavour. The secret to light, tasty scones is to make the mixture a little wetter than you might think and only knead the dough very lightly. **Chutney** - the judges score highly for thick, well-coloured chutneys with a complex, mellow aroma and tangy flavour with the correct amount of bite to the ingredients. Seal your jars with vinegar-proof lids with a plastic coating on the inside, then label the jars with the date the chutney was made and the main ingredients.

A note to last year's trophy winners: someone will be round during July to collect your cup. Will you please hand it over in a clean condition. Thank you.

Carol Benbow (p)

## CAROL ROBSON invites you for **AFTERNOON TEA**

at Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane

**on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2.30 - 4.30pm**

Tickets £6 from Carol (f) or Dorothy McMillan (d)

All proceeds to St. John's Church

### THE LONGHIRST VILLAGE LUNCHEON CLUB



The Longhirst Village Luncheon Club has been running fortnightly on a Wednesday for over 15 years, thanks in no small measure to the dedication of four lead cooks and their teams. Two of those cooks have recently had to give up their roles and while we have recruited one replacement, we are still looking for another.

The role involves planning and purchasing a two course meal for between 25 and 30 diners and leading a team of at least two other cooks and two or three table layers/servers/washer-uppers on 6 Wednesdays per year. The next occasion is 4<sup>th</sup> September. We can arrange for you to obtain a food hygiene qualification free of charge and the two long-standing lead cooks, Carol Robson (f) and Linda Rudd (i), are happy to discuss what is required with anyone interested. It would be a pity to have to stand a cooking team down for lack of a leader!

If you feel you might be able to serve the community in this way, please get in touch with Mike Elphick (c), Carol or Linda.

Mike Elphick

### THE LONGHIRST JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CLUB

For many years St. John's Church has run a Junior Activities Club for boys and girls aged 7 to 14 years for an hour on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall in term-time between September and early May. In the sports hall we regularly play football, badminton, soft tennis, dodge-ball and other team games including team skipping and occasional hockey or even cricket.



In the small hall, we play table tennis, snooker, pool, safe darts and hula-hoops. In the kitchen members engage in supervised cooking, art and even the occasional game of bingo. There is also a keyboard and a range of Lego always available for those who may want to play on their own for a while. There are two male and two female adult volunteer staff available most Tuesday evenings and never less than one of each gender.

If you want to join, we open at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** and if you don't fancy coming on your own you are welcome to bring a friend who does not have to live in the Parish. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Carol Robson (f) or Mike Elphick (c).

Mike Elphick

### HOUSE WANTED

We are currently living in rented accommodation in the Village and would be happy to hear from anyone who has a property to sell as we would like to purchase a house in Longhirst.

Thank you. Peter and Pippa Ions, telephone 790107.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A few months ago we applied to the Newcastle Building Society to improve the Village Hall. We planned to upgrade the heating and install high quality insulation in the roof of the Sports Hall, fit a storage area in the loft above the Reading Room for the hot water tank and little used equipment and make improvements to the acoustics in the Sports Hall.



Unfortunately, our bid was not successful. However, we have decided to explore other sources of funding that can be added to the 'Open Gardens Weekend' receipts. So watch this space!

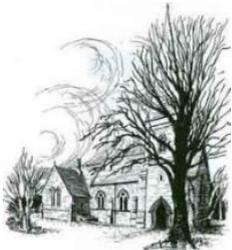
The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## WELCOME

We should like to welcome a number of new families to Longhirst. Melanie and Julian Wensby-Scott, their daughter Katie and their 3 dogs have recently moved into The Hainan on Station Road; Lisa and Luca Crosby and Roy Curling now live in Stable Close with their dog Lily; Adam, Natalie and Miles have moved into Micklewood and Stephen, Julie and Oliver have bought the last of the detached houses there.

We hope you will all be very happy in your new homes and look forward to seeing you at future events.

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our Church Fete and Grand Raffle raised a total of £1170 and we thank you all for your continued help and support. £800 of this money came from the Grand Raffle, all the prizes have now been claimed and there is a list of winners in the Church and Village Hall. This money goes into the general account and helps with the running costs of the building.

We offer you a warm welcome to join us at our combined services in St. John's

Longhirst, St. Andrew's Bothal and St. Margaret's Pegswood which are as follows:-

- 4<sup>th</sup> August - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's
- 11<sup>th</sup> August - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's
- 18<sup>th</sup> August - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's
- 25<sup>th</sup> August - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's
- 1<sup>st</sup> September - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's
- 8<sup>th</sup> September - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's
- 15<sup>th</sup> September - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's
- 29<sup>th</sup> September - Combined service 10.15am St. Margaret's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

Forthcoming events:-

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** - Afternoon Tea at Rose Cottage (see page 4)

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>/Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** - Morpeth Heritage Open Days (see page 2)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October** - 9.30am Harvest Festival service at St. John's, Longhirst

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October** - 6pm Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** - 6pm Jumble Sale in Village Hall, please start saving now!

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Coffee Morning

Jill Elphick PCC Secretary (e)

**VICAR'S LETTER**



The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most experienced assistants, saying to a customer, "No Madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time and who knows when we will get any." When the customer had gone the manager tackled him. "I heard that Jenkins! I must say I'm surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we are here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon. Now, what was it that the lady wanted?" "Rain." said Jenkins.

Thankfully there was also an absence of rain during the very successful Open Gardens Weekend when the Village received around 800 visitors and the fine weather was no doubt one of the reasons why so many people came. However, from my conversations with visitors over the course of the Weekend it became clear that experience of visits in previous years, the quality of the food in the Village Hall, the organisation and ease of parking and the friendliness of the residents who opened their gardens were also a great attraction. One conversation in particular impressed me. It was with a party of people who'd travelled all the way from Edinburgh for the day specifically to visit the Longhirst Gardens. They had heard of it on their local radio which just goes to show that it pays to advertise.

As is also usual on these occasions when the weather is favourable I, as parish priest, received congratulations for having done my job and having successfully interceded with the Almighty to keep the rain away. If you've ever had an appraisal at work you'll know the sort of thing I mean. However the reverse was true with respect to this year's Pegswood Village Show when it started pouring just as the outdoor dancing competition got underway and I was asked whether I was still in post! These light hearted exchanges however bring to mind one of the best known and wisest prayers of all time, written nearly a century ago by an American churchman called Reinhold Niebuhr. It is called the serenity prayer and may it bring you the same Peace of Christ that it has brought to so many others.

"God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to  
peace;

taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next. Amen." John Park

**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)
June	Ticket No. 143 <b>Jenny Gibb</b>	Ticket No. 167 <b>Jill McManus</b>	Ticket No. 36 <b>Veronica Healey</b>
July	Ticket No. 204 <b>Betty Potts</b>	Ticket No. 187 <b>Pauline Gilbertson</b>	Ticket No. 192 <b>Irene Clarkson</b>

Mike Elphick

## LOST PROPERTY

Several weeks ago a large white umbrella was left in the Village Hall and a grey fleece (M&S size 18) was left of the Park and Ride bus during the Open Gardens Weekend. Please claim them from Jill and Mike Elphick if they are yours or they will be put into the next Jumble Sale! Jill Elphick (e)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### AUGUST

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (e)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 - 4.30pm Afternoon Tea at Rose Cottage	(f)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Start date for submission of Show entries (see page 3)	(k)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Final date for submission of Show entries	(k)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Late blue bin collection after August Bank Holiday	
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	2 - 5pm Village Show exhibits can be set up in Village Hall	(p)

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9 - 11am Village Show exhibits can be set up in Village Hall	(p)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	2pm Longhirst Village Show in the Village Hall 3.45pm Auction of Produce	(p)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Parish Council in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for items for the October/November Longhirst Leader e-mail to <a href="mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com">claire@petercoates.plus.com</a></b>	<b>Ed. Group</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Junior Activities Club starts in the Village Hall (see page 4)	(c)(f)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (e)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Northumberland Theatre Company at Village Hall (see page 1)	(c)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11 - 4pm St. John's Church Longhirst open for Morpeth Heritage	(e)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Days - light refreshments available	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am combined service at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(b)

## REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Junior Activities Club (7 - 14 yrs) in V. Hall from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September during term time
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, and 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September

## FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Jumble Sale in the Village Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - St. John's Church Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

## 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** - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail : [dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk) (d)

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

**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)

**Longhirst Parish Association** - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : [ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk) (t)

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

**Open Gardens Weekend** - Jill McManus 791536 / e-mail: [jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk) (o)

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

**Badminton** - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : [claire@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com) (k)

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

Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)

**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** - 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 & 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)

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

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