

LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2021 / January 2022



*We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy New Year*



LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL

GRAND CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In aid of St. John's Church



Saturday 4th December
10.30am – 12.30pm



Christmas Hamper Raffle

Christmas Stalls : Gifts : Tombola etc.

Admission, Tea /Coffee and mince pie £3 (Children 50p)

All Welcome!

ROAD CLOSURE

NCC have published a notice that they intend to close Station Road from the War Memorial towards the level crossing for 1000m (0.6 mile) probably from **Monday 6th - Friday 17th December** between 7.30am and 5pm.

This is to allow for resurfacing, kerb repairs and drainage work.

CAROL SINGING

We intend to resume our Carol Singing this year and will be collecting for the Air Ambulance. We will be around the Village on **Tuesday 14th** and at **Micklewood and Lawson Villas** on **Thursday 16th December**.

We will meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Please come to help us sing or join in when we come knocking on your doors. Everyone is very welcome and we need your support.

Carol Robson (f)

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



Come along to the last pub night of 2021 from 7.30pm on **Friday 17th December**. It's our 'Christmas Pub Night' with song and laughter (maybe not the song but plenty of laughter!).

Christmas jumpers are expected but not essential!

The first Pub Night of 2022 will be on **Friday 21st January**.

Allison (h), Richard, Kathleen, Susan and Phil



LONGHIRST WILDLIFE PROJECT



The Project is now underway and a Steering Group has been formed to take it forward. There are three main principles behind the Project:

1. The objective is to involve as many residents (of all ages) as possible in the enhancement of wildlife (animals and plants) throughout the Parish.
2. The Project is entirely voluntary and no landowner or householder will be pressured to take part.
3. It will be a community led project and managed through a Steering Group.

Ongoing and recent Parish wildlife activities include:

- Woodruff Wood (a guided walk will be offered in May 2022)
- Oliver's Wood (Anne Atkinson and Ian Pledger)
- Millennium / Paddock Wood (Community Woodland)
- Grey-legged partridge breeding (John Bell)
- Beekeeping (Peter Lovering)
- Wildlife Open Days (Carol Robson)
- Red squirrels (4 active members of Morpeth & District Red Squirrels)
- Hedgehogs (Richard Tordoff)
- Bees and bats (Parish church)
- Birdboxes/feeders (across the Parish)
- Owl boxes and posts

If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Peter Coates (k) or any other member of the Steering Group (Mike Elphick, Pauline Gilbertson, Kim Woolhead, Janet Quinn, Peter Lovering, Allison Tordoff or Helen McCabe).

Peter Coates

COLLIERY CORNER

After a very enjoyable Pie and Pea tea on 6th November we are all getting together again leading up to Christmas.

Saturday 11th December 6pm

LONGHIRST COLLIERY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A shared buffet, a Christmas Raffle and a game or two of Bingo.

Tea and coffee provided but feel free to bring your favourite tippie.

Please advise if you are attending - text 07590 806827

Defibrillator Training. We had a successful training workshop on the use of a defibrillator with many residents of Longhirst Colliery participating.

Our thanks to Dougie McEwan from the Stephen Carey Trust for organising the event.

Norah Dryden, Secretary of Longhirst Colliery Residents Association

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The meeting held on 4th November was attended by the County Council Deputy Leader, Cllr Richard Wearmouth, who explained that NCC Cabinet members had offered to visit all town and parish councils and thanked the Parish Council for the invitation. As Chairman Peter Coates highlighted the following issues:

Parish election recharges: even though the elections were held in May the County Council had still not indicated what the recharge cost was going to be and this was making budgeting difficult. Cllr Wearmouth apologised for this and said he would instruct officers to contact the Parish as soon as possible.

Ashington Road: flooding on the section of road at Potland Park continues to be a problem and this had been reported to NCC Highways and Advance Northumberland several times. Cllr Wearmouth is aware of the problem and was surprised it hadn't been rectified. He will investigate the reasons for the delay and report to the January meeting to give an update.

Longhirst Hall/Micklewood Close - access to the Village: Longhirst Hall residents have pedestrian access to the Village through the wooden gate onto Dairy Lane operated with a key fob but Micklewood Close continues to have no direct pedestrian access. Cllr Wearmouth agreed to raise the issue with planning officers.

Dairy Lane: Peter Lovering queried the planning permissions for the properties on Dairy Lane and Cllr Wearmouth confirmed that once planning has been granted it can't be undone. Peter Coates asked if a nominated officer from Planning could be allocated to support the Parish Council.

Longhirst Hall parkland: concerns were raised about future development on the parkland around Longhirst Hall. Cllrs thought the area should be protected under the designation of 'high landscape value'. Cllr Wearmouth thought the area would be designated as green belt and thus would benefit from a more robust protection.

Millennium Wood and Wildlife Project: Councillors are interested in expanding the existing woodland area and there are proposals for a wildlife project across the entire Parish. Cllr Wearmouth thought this might well be in tune with new NCC initiatives and he would ask the officers concerned to contact the Parish Council.

Potland Park: Glen Fahy raised concerns about the lack of progress on the opening up of the rights of way on the site. A fence across one path has still not been removed after repeated reports. Cllr Wearmouth will check the management plan for the site and report back.

Cllr. Wearmouth was warmly thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

Northumbria Police: formally reported no incidents but since then there have been two reports of items taken from unlocked cars.

North East Grains: see report below.

Public footpaths and bridleways: a survey of the rights of way around the Parish has been completed and Jon Mills has prepared a plan which is available on the Village website (u) under 'Useful/Rights of Way' and a copy is on the notice board outside the Village Hall.

Longhirst Wildlife Project: the Steering Group has held its first meeting (see P2).

County Councillor David Towns reported that a **speeding survey** had been undertaken by NCC and Northumbria Police but the results did not warrant any further action.

Speed limit in the Village: there was a suggestion from Peter Lovering that the speed limit in the Village should be reduced to 20mph. However, the results of the recent speed survey indicated that excessive speeding is not a serious problem and parking along the Main Street helps to slow

the traffic down. It was agreed to revisit these matters as part of a wider parking/ traffic speed review in the near future.

Sports clubs in Longhirst Hall grounds: recently signs advertising events at the sports clubs have been attached to the Village nameplate sign. A polite letter will be sent to the chairs of the clubs asking them to remove the signs within 48 hours of the date of the event and to use fixtures that do not puncture the sign.

Major repairs to Station Road: NCC intend to start work on the 6th December and this will take two weeks. Daytime closures of the road from the war memorial through to the Colliery can be expected.

Defibrillator training: the first training session in Longhirst Village Hall by Richard Tordoff was very well received and he has offered more training if there is enough demand.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 6th January 2022 in Longhirst Village Hall at 7pm and all residents are welcome to attend.

Janet Quinn (q)

Meeting with North East Grains

At the recent regular meeting with Matthew Curry, the MD of North East Grains, he reported that they have commenced the erection of a new storage shed at the Longhirst site.

NEG have just completed the purchase of a second site beside the A1 near Swarland and next year this new facility will be used for grain storage which is likely to result in a reduction in the number of lorries delivering and collecting grain from Longhirst. They are then unlikely to further extend the capacity of Longhirst in the foreseeable future.

There are still no plans to proceed with the installation of an anaerobic digester plant.

The next meeting will be held in February.

Peter Coates

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Sadly, the Library is still not yet complete due to the extreme difficulty in obtaining the glass needed for the replacement window. We hope to get this finished before Christmas, but the worst-case scenario puts the completion date into the new year.

The Parish Association has been approached by the National Lottery and asked to consider making a bid for funding under the Village Halls Partnership with Community Action Northumberland. Having just completed the Elphick Room refurbishment we were not looking to take on a new project just yet, but this seemed an opportunity that should not be missed. The trustees are therefore putting together a two-part bid. The first part involves the replacement of the timber ceiling in the Reading Room with fire resistant plasterboard, set about 12 inches above the current level so as to expose the two beautiful old oak beams that are currently hidden above the existing ceiling. We are also proposing to install a substantial drop-down loft ladder with handrail so that rarely used items can be stored up there and, if possible, we will include new lighting, floor covering and curtains in the bid. The second part involves the installation of around 18 x 400W photo-voltaic panels on the south facing main hall roof and five 2.6KWh battery packs located in the loft above the Reading Room. This system should provide more than enough electricity for our current needs and enable us to power the fan assisted ventilation that is likely to be required in the future. As always with the National Lottery there is no guarantee that we will get the funding, so watch this space.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Thank you to all those who helped and attended the Beetle and Broth evening. It was a very enjoyable event and raised £185.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE **6pm on Christmas Eve at St John's Church**

YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK A PLACE FOR THIS EVENT!

Due to the massive popularity of the Carol Service and restricted numbers this year, please book your places by contacting Heather Jackson (d) and bring your masks with you!

Donations collected during the Carol Service will be given to the Air Ambulance.

December's and January's Church services are:

Date	Service
Sunday 5 th December	9.30am Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 12 th December	9.30am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 19 th December	9.30am Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst 3.00pm Carol Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood
Friday 24 th December	6.00pm Carol Service at St. John's, Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Saturday 25 th December	9.30am Holy Communion at Ulgham Church
Sunday 26 th December	9.30am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 2 nd January	9.30am Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
Sunday 9 th January	9.30am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 16 th January	9.30am Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 23 rd January	9.30am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 30 th January	10.15am Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood

Morning Service on Wednesdays at 9.30am in St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood

Dorothy Launchbury

VICAR'S LETTER

THE PERFECT GIFT



From time to time in our Christmas Eve Carol Service at St. John's Church, we have sung a rather unusual carol called "The Perfect Gift". It goes to the familiar tune that accompanies "We Three Kings of Orient are" and has proved very popular, combining as it does, a wry take on the materialism that not only obscures the seasonal good news of the birth of Jesus, but which can also lead the unwary shopper into debt, anxiety, hardship and distress. I stumbled upon it some years ago and would love to be able to acknowledge the author but I have been unable to find out who they are. It will be included in the Carol Service again this year, but especially for those who will be unable to attend the service, here are the words.

We three shopaholics are
Buying gifts from near and far
Searching high and searching low
For happiness in a jar.
O, shopping here and shopping there
Up the lift and down the stair
Through driving rain and deep snow drift
Searching for the perfect gift.

Born to shop all night and all day
In the High Street and on eBay
Shop forever, ceasing never
Don't worry how we shall pay.
O, shopping here and shopping there
Up the lift and down the stair
Through driving rain and deep snow drift
Searching for the perfect gift.

Credit cards to offer have I
To pay for turkey, sprouts and mince pie
How fantastic, spend with plastic
See how our debt runs high.
O, shopping here and shopping there
Up the lift and down the stair
Searching for the perfect gift.
Through driving rain and deep snow drift

Debt is mine its bitter perfume
Now I feel a gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing, my heart's crying
out from its cold stone tomb.
O, searching here and searching there
Asking God to hear my prayer
In my need to Him I plead
Help me find that gift most rare.

Now my heart sings loud and clear
God is with us, God is here
Paying the cost, saving the lost
He takes away our fear.
O, praise Him here and praise Him there
Up the lift and down the stair
In the stable, in the cradle
We have found the perfect gift.

A very happy Christmas to you and yours.

John Park

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)
October	No. 167 Ron Woodcock	No. 58 Claire Coates	No. 124 Dave Chambers
November	No. 231 Helen Dunkley	No. 162 James Millward	No. 196 Alan Woolhead

Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Wednesday 1 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 4 th	10.30am - 12.30pm Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(f)
Saturday 11 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	6pm Longhirst Colliery Christmas Celebration	(j)
Tuesday 14 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Wednesday 15 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 16 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Friday 17 th	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Friday 24 th	6pm Christmas Carol Service at Longhirst (Please book - see page 5)	(d)
	11.30pm Midnight Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal	
Saturday 25 th	9.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion at Ulgham Church	
Friday 31 st	Late blue bin collection after Christmas	

JANUARY

Wednesday 5 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 6 th	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
Friday 7 th	Late black bin collection after New Year	
Friday 14th	Deadline for February / March Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
Saturday 15 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n)
Wednesday 19 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 21 st	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)

REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Pound Fitness Class in the Village Hall on Tuesdays, 6.45 - 7.30pm
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday at 7.30pm and Sunday at 9.30am

Mobile Library - 9.45am in the Village on Friday 10th December and Friday 7th January

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 (a)

County Councillor - David Towns 07985 012012 / e-mail : david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk (g)

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

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

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

PCC Secretary - (e)

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

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)

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 - Helen McCabe 790494 / e-mail : mccabe_paul1@sky.com (n)

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

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

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

Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings - MADRS 07570 897979 / enquiries@madredsquirrels.com (s)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail : chrismarr@btinternet.com (u)

Village Facebook page - 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 (b)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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