

LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2019

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND SATURDAY 22nd and SUNDAY 23rd JUNE



It might be the depths of winter now, but it is only 5 months until the Longhirst Open Gardens Weekend on 22nd and 23rd June!

Many thanks to David Jordon for again providing space to set up a carpark. This is greatly appreciated as it means that we will be able run the Park and Ride scheme for visitors.

There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved if you have a few hours to spare that weekend including helping with teas, stewarding, selling ice creams, mini bus driving and more. Further details will be available in the

April/May Longhirst Leader.

If you would like more information about volunteering, opening your own garden or anything else to do with Longhirst Open Gardens, please get in touch at jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk or ring 791536.

Jill McManus

CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 6th APRIL

On **Saturday 6th April** between 10.30am and 2.30pm we have a Craft Fair in the Village Hall. This is run as a 'Table Top Sale' in the main hall (tables are £15 each) and we serve our usual wonderful homemade refreshments, including bacon butties and soup, in the small hall. We hope you will come along and support the event which is aid of St. John's Church. If you are interested in having a table or you know of anyone who might, please get in touch and I will send full information and a booking form.



Jill Elphick (e)

FREE "BASIC INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET" COURSE

The County Council is offering a free "Basic Introduction to the Internet" course in Longhirst Village Hall, probably starting in late February. It is aimed at absolute beginners, helping them to get online using a laptop or tablet. Attendees can also learn how to set up an e-mail account, stay in touch with friends and relatives using Facebook or Skype, shop online safely and search for information. There is no such thing as a silly question and trainers will try their best to include requests in the sessions which will last 2 hours and be held weekly over a period of 6 weeks. If you would like to learn more please contact Mike Elphick (c).

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Before the meeting took place on 3rd January the Parish Council received a brief presentation by Ronnie Baird from Enterpen Ltd. of Darlington. He explained that his Company intends to submit a **planning application** in February for the construction of 10 bungalows on the field immediately NW of the Village (Domino's field). Before then he will leaflet Village residents [this has now been done (Ed.)] and hold a public meeting in the Village Hall to outline his proposals.

Welcome Booklet: This is proving to be very popular with new residents and there has now been a reprint (see page 4).

Volunteers: A number of residents have put their names forward after the Remembrance Service to help with Parish Litter Picking, Sign Cleaning and Coffee Mornings.

Micklewood Parish Council Notice Board: this has been delivered and will be installed shortly.

It was agreed to increase the **Parish Precept** by 3% for 2019/20.

Peter Coates reported that he had met the Managing Director of Dere Street Homes together with Janet Quinn of the Micklewood Residents Association to discuss reopening the **pedestrian access at the rear of Longhirst Hall**. Dere Street agreed to consider the matter but a few days later responded by asking the Parish Council to agree to allow construction traffic for the proposed housing development on Dairy Lane to use the Lane itself. The developer has been advised that the Council cannot support such a proposal. Contact would be made with County Councillor David Towns to arrange a meeting between NCC Planners, Dere Street and the Parish Council to discuss the matter and attempt to find a resolution. Dere Street has **erected a lift** to serve the new apartments in the former hotel without planning approval and the lift structure rises well above the existing roofline. It is understood that NCC will insist that Dere Street apply for retrospective planning permission.

NCC Highway staff has recommended **moving the existing 30mph sign** at the south end of Longhirst further north and offered a number of options. After much discussion it was agreed to ask NCC to place a new 30mph sign immediately before The Lodge at the old entrance to Longhirst Hall together with a new 40mph sign where the existing 30mph sign is located. A **new flashing speed warning sign** should then be sited just after this new 30mph sign at the south end and another at the north end just before the first property on the east side of the main street.

A resident requested that a **mirror** be erected opposite the **entrance to Stable Close** because of the poor visibility when leaving the Close. It was pointed out that residents of the Close would have to erect the mirror and meet the costs themselves but it was agreed to consult NCC Highways on the matter.

Chris Marr reported that at present the costs of the **Village website** were being charged initially to a resident's credit card and it was agreed that a standing order should be opened for the Parish Council bank account to make the payment direct.

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 7th March** and all residents are invited to attend.

Peter Coates

PARISH CLERK

Ian Thompson is standing down from his role as Clerk to the Parish Council. He first joined the Council as a councillor in 1974 and became Clerk in 1998. His contribution to the Council over a period of 45 years has been enormous and we owe him a considerable debt of gratitude. More on this subject in a future edition of The Leader.

Peter Coates

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

We are delighted to report that the new fibre cabinet installed by Openreach to provide Ashington exchange residents with a high speed broadband service is now live! Please contact your service provider if you wish to take advantage of the new facility.

Broomhaugh and Ashtrees had recently been advised that they would no longer be provided with fibre broadband but following contact with the Openreach CEO the Company has relented and are now promising to install the service by the end of September this year.

Peter Coates

MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

The Residents committee met with Kingston Property Services and Dere Street Homes on 16th November: this was a fairly positive meeting. The details of the meeting and suggestions for further discussion have been e-mailed round Micklewood residents and this has triggered a number of responses. Whilst things have been put on hold through Christmas and New Year a further meeting of the residents will be arranged in the near future to discuss these issues and agree a way forward.

Access to the Village continues to be a problem and various suggestions to the builders have failed to resolve it. The Parish Council are now looking to take the issue forward with Northumberland County Council.

The squirrel officer, Allan Scott (s), can regularly be seen about the estate and has recently trapped 48 greys. He is hoping that by controlling the grey squirrels the reds will return.

Janet Quinn

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Trustees are pleased to report that the internal redecoration has now been satisfactorily completed. They are currently in the process of replacing the damaged library fire escape door frame and are also planning to replace the front door and frame this spring.

Further plans include improving the loop system for the hard of hearing and seeking a capital grant from the National Lottery to upgrade the central heating system both in terms of the provision of hot water in the toilets and significantly improving the heating in the Sports Hall. The provision of a modern public address system is also being explored.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Village Coffee Mornings take place on the second Saturday of every month in the Village Hall and we now have a rota of volunteers who will run these for the first half of this year - thank you all very much. A warm welcome awaits you and it is the ideal place to meet other locals and to get to know what is going on in Longhirst. Jill Elphick (e)

THE BRIDGE SINGERS RETURN

The Bridge Singers, which is the community choir in the villages of Felton and West Thirston, will be returning to Longhirst Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 16th March** following their successful concert here in 2017. They will perform popular 1960s numbers, folk music from Northumberland, Italian Madrigals, sacred pieces from the 16th -19th centuries and one or two comedy songs from the early 20th century. Alnwick singer/songwriter Gary Steward will also sing some of his songs with guitar.

Tickets are £7.50 each, which will include a light buffet supper after the concert. There will be a paying bar and a raffle. Tickets are available from Chris Lediard (r) or Mike Elphick (c).

Margaret and Chris Lediard are both members of the choir and recommend the evening to all. If you want to find out more about The Bridge Singers they have their own website, <https://bridgesingers.wixsite.com/thebridgesingers>.
Cheryl Camm and Chris Lediard

FOODIES EVENING 9th FEBRUARY

Anne Arter (of AA Foods) will enable us to produce a first class 3 course meal that we can share together in the comfortable surroundings of the Village Hall on **Saturday 9th February** at 6.30pm. By the time you read this the evening may be fully booked but please contact me if you are interested.
Jill Elphick (e)

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome a number of newcomers to the Village. Josie and Roy Noble and their daughter Beth recently moved into Greystones on the main street. Dawn and Jim Hallett are now in Delcorf House and Paul and Helen McCabe are in Estivale House, both in Micklewood. Diane and Andy Robson and their 2 dogs now live in 8 Lawson Villas (the town houses in Longhirst Hall), Julie Harris is in 4 Lawson Villas and Polly and David Squires moved into 2 Lawson Villas in January.

We hope they will all be very happy in their new homes and look forward to seeing them at future Parish events.

"WELCOME TO LONGHIRST" BOOKLET

The booklet is intended for new residents and copies can be obtained from Peter Coates (k) or Janet Quinn (q). We are very grateful to Gerald Quinn of Vulcan Engineering for offering to print additional copies for us. **If you have new neighbours please contact one of us** so that we can welcome them to the Parish.

The booklet is also available on the Village website (u).

Peter Coates and Janet Quinn

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Compassion In World Farming

Hello! My name is Julie, I am a resident of Longhirst and I campaign on behalf of Compassion In World Farming, an upstanding organisation.

Factory farming is the single biggest cause of animal cruelty in the world and this also has devastating effects on our planet! I would like to start a local volunteer group in this area, so please contact me on 07723745663 if you are interested. You can also visit the CIWF website for further information about them.

Julie Roberts

**THE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT TEAMS BENEFIT FROM THE
PROCEEDS OF CAROL SINGING IN LONGHIRST AND BOTHAL**



Carol singing around Longhirst Village and Carol Services at both St. John's Longhirst and St. Andrew's Bothal, raised a magnificent £732. At the recent Village Coffee Morning Rev. John Park presented this to Sarah Goldie to further the work of the local Macmillan Care Support Team based in Bedlington who have provided much needed support to a number of our local residents.

Pictured are a few of those involved.

Jill Elphick

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

We offer you a warm welcome to our combined Sunday services at St John's in Longhirst, St Andrew's in Bothal and St Margaret's in Pegswood.



3rd February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in Rectory
 10th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory
 17th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in Rectory
 24th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

3rd March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory
 10th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory
 17th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Longhirst, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory
 24th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory
 31st March - Mothering Sunday Holy Communion 9.30am at Bothal, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

Our Lent Services start on Wednesday 6th March with Communion at 9.30am in Pegswood and 7.00pm in Bothal. Then from Wednesday 13th March there will be devotional meetings at 7.00pm - please contact John (b) for details.

We invite you to join us at these upcoming events:-

Saturday 9th February - **Foodies Evening** with Anne Arter in the Village Hall at 6.30pm, see P4
 Saturday 16th March - An evening with the **Bridge Singers** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, see P4
 Sunday 17th March - **Church AGM** at 6pm in the Village Hall, all welcome
 Saturday 6th April - **Craft Fair** 10.30am - 2.30pm in the Village Hall, see page 1
 Wednesday 24th April - **Wild Life Watch Day** at Carol Robson's
 Saturday 13th July - Traditional **Church Fete** 2pm at the Village Hall

The Pie and Pea Supper in November raised £261 and our Christmas Coffee morning raised £768. We thank you once again for your continued support and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful year in 2019.

Jill Elphick (e)

RECOMMENDED TRADESMEN

I've found a very good **electrician** - Paul Bennet Electrical Services, 50 St. Mary's Field, Morpeth NE61 2QF. Tel: 0775 6016 243. email: bennetelec_40@outlook.com.

Mo Dewar

I have just had a new boiler and 'Smart' heating system fitted which was pretty complicated. Andy Hedley from '1st CallHeating' (<https://www.1stcallheating.co.uk>) in Cramlington impressed me with his understanding of the issues and difficulties and they have done a superb job. I highly recommend them if you need a **heating engineer** and as you might imagine they are a lot cheaper than British Gas. They have a subsidiary company <https://www.1stcalldrainage.co.uk> which, as the name suggests, deals with **drains** etc.

Chris Marr

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Recently a number of people reported door to door salesmen being in the Village and we checked the van registration number with the Police. In this case they did come from a fish business in North Shields. However, the advice from the Police is always to be extremely careful when dealing with salesmen who come to your door.

Fiona Smith

THE MILE OF PENNIES APPEAL



I am delighted to report that on the 1st August last year we reached the **2 Mile Post**. We have now raised £1,601 for the Village Hall and the Church and this equates to 2 miles and 128 yds. Role on the third mile!!

If you have a pot full of pennies and two-pences (or any other coins including foreign currency), just let me know. I will be happy to come round and collect them, count them and ensure that your contribution is receipted and recorded.

Mike Elphick

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)
December	Ticket No. 221 Enid Hogg	Ticket No. 120 Doreen Hodges	Ticket No. 134 Katherine Lamont
January	Ticket No. 33 Anne Errington	Ticket No. 61 Gill Featonby	Ticket No. 118 Dennis Hodges

We are approaching that time of year when we all need to join or renew our membership of the Longhirst Hundred club. If you have not signed a standing order you should receive a letter from me by the middle of March. If you do not hear from me and would like to join, please let me know.

Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 6 th	11.45 Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 9 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (e)
Saturday 9 th	6.30pm Foodies Night in the Village Hall with Anne Arter	(e)
Friday 15 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Tuesday 19 th	12noon Mothers' Union Prayer Lunch	(g)
Wednesday 20 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)

MARCH

Wednesday 6 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 7 th	7pm Parish Council in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Friday 8 th	Deadline for items for the April/May Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 9 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (e)
Friday 15 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night	(h)
Saturday 16 th	7.30pm Bridge Singers Entertain in the Village Hall	(r)
Sunday 17 th	6pm St. John's Church AGM in the Village Hall	(e)
Tuesday 19 th	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margarets Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 20 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 31 st	9.30am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion at St Andrews Bothal	(b)

REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday 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

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 6th April - Craft Fair in the Village Hall
 Sunday 21st April - 9.30 am Easter Sunday Holy Communion at St. Johns Longhirst
 Wednesday 24th April - Wildlife Watch Day at Carol Robson's
Saturday 22nd/Sunday 23rd June - OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND
 Saturday 13th July - Church Fete
 Sunday 1st 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 (a)

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

Assistant Curate - Rev. Lee Cleminson 519398 / e-mail : Revleecleminson@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)

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

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

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

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

Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)

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)

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

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)

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, dewarms@btinternet.com (w)

Janet Quinn - 38 Micklewood Close : 790630, quinnjanet@sky.com (q)



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

If you would prefer to receive the Longhirst Leader by e-mail please contact Jill Elphick (e)

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