

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## June / July 2019

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OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND  
SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> and SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE. 11AM - 5PM



It's nearly time for Open Gardens Weekend which is a lovely occasion and a great chance to meet people and get to know more about the Village. It is also the largest event we hold!

There will be **eleven gardens open to visit** as well as other attractions including **vintage cars, a model railway, Wansbeck Garden Centre plant stall** and of course **excellent lunches and teas** at the Village Hall. We are also delighted that **Sean Murray** and his wife Eileen are coming. Sean was the

winner of the BBC Great Chelsea Garden Challenge in 2015 and as a result in 2016 designed a garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Sean now has his own design business 'Garden Narratives' and the Community Garden in the centre of Pegswood is one of his achievements. Sean will be at Barnacre Garden to open the event on the Saturday morning and then available in Dairy Cottage garden on both days during the afternoon.

To celebrate the start of the Weekend St John's Church will be holding a **Songs of Praise service on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm** to which everyone is invited. The Church will also be open to visitors. There will be live music, the opportunity to light memorial candles and to view a power point presentation compiled by Sean Murray of 'Gardens, Before and After'.

The ticket price is £5 per adult per day with accompanied children free. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Full details can be found on [www.longhirstopengardens.org](http://www.longhirstopengardens.org).

### **Can you help out?**

If you have a few hours to spare that weekend to help out with **stewarding** at the car park or in the Village just let me know. The catering team will be grateful for donations of **home-made chutney or preserves** for the refreshments.

**Litter picking** will be at 10am on **June 8<sup>th</sup>** to make sure Longhirst looks at its best and to do our bit to remove plastic from the local environment. Just come if you would like to help with this.

### **Parking in the Village**

The intention is to minimise parking in the Village so visitors will be directed to the Park and Ride site at The Brocks (next to North East Grains). Residents are requested to avoid parking on the main street, if possible, between 10am and 5pm on the two days of the event.

### **Gardeners and Volunteers**

There will be a meeting for all gardeners and volunteers at the **Village Coffee morning at 11am on June 8<sup>th</sup>** to discuss arrangements for the day and to answer any questions you may have. If you have not yet volunteered please come along as we need as many helpers as possible. If you can't make the meeting and have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. Jill McManus (o)

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May was notable as it was the last meeting for our longstanding Parish Clerk, Ian Thompson. The Chairman, Catherine Farrell thanked him very warmly for his lengthy service, both as a Councillor and as Clerk, and made a presentation on behalf of Parish Council Chairmen and Members past and

present. She also introduced our new Clerk, Helyn Douglas (see photo) from Guide Post, who has been Clerk to Humshaugh Parish Council for 4 years.



Having presented her Annual Review Catherine was re-elected as Chairman and, as Richard Tordoff was standing down as Vice Chairman, Peter Coates was elected in his place. The expenditure for 2018/19 and the budget for 2019/20 were then discussed. Details will be published on the Council website shortly.

Peter Coates reported that he is meeting Rob Murfin, the new Head of Planning at NCC, early in June to discuss the **pedestrian access at the rear of Longhirst Hall**. Ian Thompson has been notified that NCC has granted **retrospective planning permission for the external lift at the Hall**.

The Council has lodged an objection to the planning application for an **anaerobic digester** at North East Grains because of the lack of information over increased traffic levels, noise, smells, etc. Concern was also expressed over the proposed size of the facility which may well become one of the largest digestors in the region.

An objection has also been submitted to the application for 10 new **bungalows in Domino's Field**. The applicant is claiming that the site is infill development and had previously been used as a storage site for the Butterwell Opencast. The Council has refuted both these statements and pointed out that the Field is clearly "high contribution" green belt in the new NCC Local Plan. Longhirst Village is a Conservation Area and we do not wish to see the boundaries extended.

The **Open Gardens** organisers requested that the Council make a grant of £200 towards the cost of signage for the event and this was approved.

The installation of a **defibrillator** at, or near, the Village Hall is being actively investigated. The various options include purchase or leasing and the possibility of taking over the Village phone box to house the unit.

County Councillor David Towns advised the Council that the B1337 **between the Church and the Hebron turn is scheduled to be closed** from 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June from 8am and 4pm, although work may take place outside these dates. This will allow "micro resurfacing" to take place. The need for repairs to the road out of the Village towards Linton has also been reported.

Chris Marr and Ray Robson are undertaking a major overhaul of the **Village website**. More information is already available and further improvements are forthcoming. They will prepare a report on the financial implications for regular maintenance of the site shortly.

The **next meeting** will be held in the Village Hall at 7pm on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July** and all residents are invited to attend.

Peter Coates

## VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



In **June** the pub night is on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**. This is a week earlier than usual because of the forthcoming Open Gardens Weekend.

It will return to the third Friday of the month in **July, 19<sup>th</sup>**. Longhirst Pub Night Team



## IAN THOMPSON



Ian Thompson has retired from his position as Parish Clerk having held the post for over 20 years. Prior to that he was a Parish Councillor for 16 years. He was born in the Village in 1946 and lived with his parents, Nancy and Tom and his elder brother, Keith, at No. 8 on the main street. He attended Longhirst School until he was 11 and then went to KEVI High School in Morpeth. He trained to become a teacher in Durham where he met Val and they married in 1968.

Ian and Val set up home in Cramlington and then bought No. 10 The Village in 1974. Ian taught history in Longbenton, Newcastle and then at Hirst High School in Ashington. His interest in the history of Longhirst was kindled when he was given the records not only of their new home but also of other nearby properties. Over the years he has researched the archives relating to the Village and Longhirst Hall and has written around 20 booklets. He has also given a variety of talks to local and professional groups and The Northumbrian magazine has published an article by him on the history of cricket at Longhirst Hall. He is very much the "go to man" for matters relating local history!

Ian became a member of the Parish Council in 1974 and stood down in 1990 after he and Val moved to Felton, where Val ran the post office. They returned to Longhirst in 1998 and moved into No.9. Ian was almost immediately appointed as Parish Clerk. Around this time he retired from teaching and worked part time as an educational IT rep until he fully retired in 2006.

Ian has always been very active in Village life. He joined the Church choir at a tender age and became a bell ringer when he was 11. He started to maintain the Churchyard in 1953 and, apart from his time in Felton, has helped to do so ever since. He is currently Chairman of the Parish Association, a member of a Luncheon Club cooking team, one of our highly valued Litter Pickers and generally helps out with numerous Village activities including the Church Fete and Open Gardens. He and Val have held fund raising events for diabetes and organise the Macmillan Coffee Mornings. Last year he helped to arrange a reunion for former pupils at Longhirst School with 44 attending.

Ian and Val plan to leave Longhirst to be nearer their son Mark and his family. In the meantime he can still be seen working around the Parish and walking his dog. We hope they will be very happy in their next home and wish them all the very best for the future. They will both be sadly missed and we sincerely hope that they will make regular return visits. Claire and Peter Coates

## VILLAGE WEBSITE - DO YOU MIND YOUR PHOTO BEING ON IT?

As part of the development of the Longhirst Village Website it has been suggested that we increase the number of pictures that are displayed. Some of these may be of the Village today and various activities that take place in and around Longhirst (Open Gardens, The Village Show for example). It has been suggested that we also create an archive of pictures of Longhirst from past years. I am conscious that some of these pictures may include images of individuals. If there are any concerns with regard to specific pictures please let me know and I will ensure that any such images are removed from the site.

Chris Marr (u)

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS



with such an upgrade.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Village Hall's central heating boiler, which broke down in March, was replaced in the middle of May. The new boiler has been chosen to ensure that it is powerful enough not only to run the existing system but also to run an enhanced heating system for the Sports Hall if and when the Trustees decide to go ahead

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## WE NEED ANOTHER NEW LEAD COOK FOR THE LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meets in the Village Hall on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We have four teams of five individuals, one of whom is the lead cook. Each team plans, purchases for, cooks, serves and clears up after a two-course meal once every two months. We are looking for a volunteer to lead one to the teams. If you could fill this role or would like more information please contact Mike Elphick (c).



Mike Elphick

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A FOOD HYGIENE COURSE?



We are delighted to welcome Ian Armstrong back to the Village to run a Food Hygiene course for us. The course will take place at the Village Hall on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** between 10am and 3.30pm with an hour for lunch. The course is open to anyone who wishes to take part and is free of charge. There is a limit to the number of people who can be accommodated so places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested please ring Mike

Elphick (c) to book your place.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## MILK IN GLASS BOTTLES!

Would you like to return to having milk delivered to your doorstep in glass bottles? There is a milkman who is based at Hanover Dairies depot in Bedlington who could cover this area but he would need a sufficient customer base. Currently his prices are 77p for a 1pt glass bottle of milk and £1.15p for a 1pt glass bottle of orange juice and he delivers on a Mon/Wed/Fri before 7.30am. Yes, it is more expensive than the 'poly' containers but surely in order to use less plastic this is a price worth paying. If you are interested to learn more please let me know. Jill Elphick (e)

## RED SQUIRREL CONSERVATION UPDATE

The conservation carried out in the Parish has been very positive with a significant number of Greys being culled since I started back at the end of October. A big thank you to everyone who monitors traps and allows me to trap on their land and premises. I am also grateful to those who have forwarded sightings to the Morpeth & District Red Squirrel (MADRS) site. It really makes a difference.

On the down side we have had a live trap stolen from the un-fenced area within Longhirst Hall grounds. MADRS take these thefts very seriously as do Northumbria Police who have been informed so that they can carry out their own investigation.

Allan Scott and the MADRS Grey Team (s)

## LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



This year's Longhirst Village Show will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September** starting at 2.00pm and by now you may already be growing vegetables, fruit and flowers to enter. Now is also the time to start making your jams and chutneys, creating your wonderful entries for the Crafts section and taking those winning photographs.

All of the classes are listed in the Show schedule which you should receive with this issue of the Longhirst Leader. You can submit one entry into as many classes as you like so please do take part, even if you are a complete novice. The more entries the better!

If you would like to know some do's and don'ts or get some really useful common sense advice with helpful pictures, the RHS book "Great British Village Show" is available to borrow from Carol Benbow (p). A few hints and tips from the book will be included in the next issue of the Longhirst Leader.

Proceeds from the Show are used to support the Village in a variety of ways. We have recently donated £300 to the Parish Association towards a new gazebo and £100 to the Open Gardens Weekend.

Carol Benbow (p)

## VICAR'S LETTER



While it was with great sadness that we said farewell to Rev'd Lee Cleminson in a very well-attended special afternoon service at St. John's Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, it was also a very joyful occasion as we celebrated all that Lee has given to the Parishes over the past three years. We were delighted to present him with a gift of £700 from all three Churches and communities and wished him well for the next chapter in his ministry. How fortunate his new parishioners in North Shields will be. I expect many of you will always remember fondly Lee's approachability, personal warmth, engaging personality,

all in all a great ambassador for the Christian faith. Many will also appreciate the time and attention he has offered to individuals and families, with great empathy, both in good times and in bad. Whether in conversation perhaps over lunch at Longhirst Village Hall, enjoying a game of darts or football at the young people's activities on a Tuesday evening or entering his scones in competition at the Longhirst Village Show, Lee has wholeheartedly involved himself in the community in so many ways.

Lee gave his last sermon to us on the Easter theme of the resurrection appearance of Christ to the disciples who had gathered behind locked doors in Jerusalem, during which he made one simple observation. He pointed out the irony that whereas the tomb where Jesus' body had lain was now open, the stone having been rolled away, the doors behind which Jesus' fearful followers cowered were well and truly locked. The challenge is to unlock doors of our hearts and let Christ in. Lee's generous openness to everyone, whoever they may be has set an example of resurrection faith to us all and will be a great strength wherever he serves in the future.

John Park

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We offer you a warm welcome to our combined services at St. John's Longhirst, St. Andrew's Bothal and St. Margaret's Pegswood which are as follows:-

2<sup>nd</sup> June - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's

9<sup>th</sup> June - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

16<sup>th</sup> June - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's

23<sup>rd</sup> June - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

30<sup>th</sup> June - Combined service 10.15am at St. Margaret's

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

14<sup>th</sup> July - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

21<sup>st</sup> July - Family Service 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm at St. Andrew's

28<sup>th</sup> July - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

Thank you once again for supporting our recent events. Carol Robson's Wildlife Watch day at her home raised £500, our Craft Fair raised £470 and in addition we sold £165 of our Grand Raffle Tickets. This is an excellent start to this valuable way of funding the general running expenses of the Church. We will be selling the Grand Raffle Tickets over the **Open Gardens Weekend on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June** and at our **Annual Church Fete on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July** where the draw will be made at 4pm. If you can help to sell the tickets or would like to purchase tickets for yourself please let me know.

Lee wishes to thank everyone for their generosity and good wishes and he invites us all to attend his Licensing Service at **St Peter's, Balkwell on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm**. Please note that the coach will leave St. John's at 5.30pm and there may be spaces available if you are interested.

Jill Elphick (e)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CHANGES AT THE CREDIT UNION

Readers will be familiar with the idea of credit unions - perhaps from the Archbishop of Canterbury's enthusiastic support for them - and may know of Northumberland Credit Union. In October last year, Northumberland Credit Union merged with the much bigger NEFirst Credit Union (which is based in Gateshead and also covers Co. Durham) - so is now able to offer larger loans, insurance on both loans and savings and pay dividends on savings - but still has that friendly community approach. Come and talk to us - at Pegswood Community Hub (Friday 12noon-1pm) or Stobhill Info Centre (Weds 10am-11:30am), phone 0330 055 3666 - or see the website [www.nefirstcu.co.uk](http://www.nefirstcu.co.uk).

Nic Best, Morpeth Town Councillor

## THE MILE OF PENNIES APPEAL

We have now raised £1,608 for the Village Hall and the Church and this equates to 2 miles and 144 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£60)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£40)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£20)
April	Ticket No. 110 <b>Val Thompson</b>	Ticket No. 152 <b>Dorothy Launchbury</b>	Ticket No. 219 <b>Enid Hogg</b>
May	Ticket No. 206 <b>David Wiggett</b>	Ticket No. 172 <b>Joan Proudlock</b>	Ticket No. 60 <b>Claire Coates</b>

Mike Elphick

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**JUNE**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Village Coffee Morning 11am Open Meeting for all about the OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND	(r) (e) (o)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Lee Cleminson's Licensing Service at St. Peter's Balkwell	(b)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 11pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Strawberry Tea at St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7pm Songs of Praise at St. John's Longhirst	(b)
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11am - 5pm Longhirst Village Open Gardens Weekend</b>	<b>(o)</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>11am - 5pm Longhirst Village Open Gardens Weekend</b>	<b>(o)</b>

**JULY**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Parish Council in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for items for the August/September Longhirst Leader e-mail to <a href="mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com">claire@petercoates.plus.com</a></b>	<b>Editorial Group</b>
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 2pm Church Fete 4pm St. John's Church Grand Raffle Drawn	(r) (e) (e)
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)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 - 11pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)

**REGULAR EVENTS**

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 6
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July

**FUTURE EVENTS**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August - Afternoon Tea at Carol Robson's

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Village Show

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September - NTC Theatre Company present "Stars Look Down" by A.J.Cronin

## 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)

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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) (a)

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

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**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)

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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 & 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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**Our sincere thanks to  
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for printing this magazine**

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