

LONGHIRST LEADER

April / May 2016

THE SHOW GOES ON!



The AGM of the Longhirst Garden Association made the unanimous decision to stage the Village Show this year with a number of changes which, hopefully, will make it more user friendly.

We look forward to your support and **encourage you to take part**, particularly the younger people in the Parish.



The Village Show this year is on **SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER at 1.30pm** in the Village Hall - a **different day and earlier time!**

You will find the new Schedule with this copy of the Longhirst Leader. Please take time to go through it and absorb the changes that have been made. (If you receive this by e-mail and would like a paper copy either pick one up at the Village Hall or contact Jill Elphick (e)). Briefly, in addition to some of the classes changing, there will be no charge to enter exhibits in the Show and no prize money, although prize cards and trophies will still be awarded. Entries can be submitted by e-mail as well as by hand and exhibits can be set up on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

More information about the Vegetable, Flower, Cookery, Photograph, Craft and Junior Classes in the Show, and how younger residents can get help to become involved can be soon be found on our new web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/longhirstshow> or google 'longhirst show 2016'. Jill Elphick

SPRING FAYRE

SATURDAY 9th APRIL

10am - 2pm

Village Hall

There are many stalls to browse and tempt you including:-



Moon Magic with Handmade Patchwork

Frans Bags with upcycled bags and accessories

Greetings cards and stationery products from Phoenix

Lindisfarne Wood

David Kerr - Northumbrian Artist

Woodruff Wood, Jewellery, Scarves, Preserves, Cakes and lots more.

When you need a break the **refreshments** on offer will be wonderful **bacon butties, soup, homemade cakes and drinks.**

FREE ENTRY and all proceeds in aid of the Church.

An event not to be missed! More information from Dorothy Mcmillan (d)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The meeting on Thursday 3rd March was well attended and our local **Police Community Officer** was present and gave her **report**. There had been a break-in and theft at another golf club resulting in an arrest and this could lead to a charge for the Longhirst Golf club break-in. Investigations are ongoing for the theft of oil from the Church.

It was pointed out by a member of the public that the **notice board on Ulgham Lane** was damaged. The Clerk said he would repair it but acknowledged that we should consider buying a new one.

Richard Tordoff had discussed with Alan Sambrook the possibility of volunteers being allowed to work on the highways to help **alleviate flooding issues and blocked gullies**. Alan pointed out that working on the verges was acceptable but not on the roads. Further discussions will take place. The **lonnen at the Colliery** is the responsibility of NCC and they will be asked if they can do anything to help with the drainage.

An application was received for **support for the annual Church Fete**, it was agreed to give a raffle prize to the value of £50.

A **pre-application** for a house to be built on land in the Station's yard had been received. This has since been rejected on the grounds that the land on which it was to be built is contaminated. A **tree report** has been received regarding the whole of the Longhirst Hall estate - NCC Planning Department have also received the report.

It is hoped that the **C126** will open again very soon, after Highways have checked the road. Concerns were expressed about the state of the **C125 next to Butterwell disposal point** caused by wagons taking fire clay from the site. The Clerk will speak to Trevor Meek, the manager of the site regarding the issue.

The working group led by Bob Jackson, who are looking into the **traffic to and from the Grain Drier** have discussed various solutions which have been presented to NCC Highways. At this early stage it would appear that the cheapest and preferred solution would be to introduce one route to the drier and another route away from it. This would reduce traffic in the Village and prevent large vehicles meeting each other and being forced to mount the footpaths. Further discussions will take place with NCC.

Richard Tordoff suggested that we should try to engage with Dere Street Homes and/or Longhirst Hall estate to try to provide **pedestrian access to the Village**. Housing in the grounds is set to treble the size of the Village but at present there is no access to any of the Village amenities i.e. bus service, Church, letterbox, Village Hall, except by a one mile detour. The Clerk will contact NCC and ask for a meeting to discuss options relating to the integration of the two communities.

The **next meeting**, which is the **AGM**, will take place on Thursday 12th May at 7pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend.

Catherine Farrell

Stop Press: The **C126** (the road to Ashington that was closed by UK Coal) is now open.

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

Enclosed with the Council Tax statements you may have noticed a leaflet from iNorthumberland (based at County Hall) which refers to the second phase programme "roll out" of fibre broadband in the County.

This will include the Ulgham exchange properties in Longhirst Parish (790 and 791 numbers).

If you complete their form at www.inorthumberland.org.uk/pledge they will notify you once faster broadband becomes available. We recommend that every relevant household takes advantage of this service and registers to help to keep Longhirst Parish at the forefront of NCC broadband planning.

Peter Coates

LITTER PICKING - 'CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN'

Spring is in the air and it is lovely to see nature beginning to wake up and provide splashes of colour and green along our hedgerows and verges. Our small band of litter pickers go out regularly to try and keep the Parish clean and tidy but it is a constant battle. Where does all the litter come from? Take a look around just where you live, could you spare a few minutes to make a difference by picking up the litter along the roadside near you? Let's make a special effort and join in the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. PLEASE HELP - let Chris Lediard (r) know where you are prepared to clear every few weeks and together we can keep our community tidy.

Thank you.

Chris Lediard

Carol Robson invites you to a **WILDLIFE WATCH DAY** in aid of St. John's Church

at

ROSE COTTAGE, ULGHAM LANE

on

WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL



10.00am - 12.00noon

2.00pm - 4.00pm

6.30pm - 9.30pm

Coffee/tea and scones

Tea/coffee and cake

Coffee/tea and snacks



£4 per session, includes refreshments

Raffle and Bottle Tombola

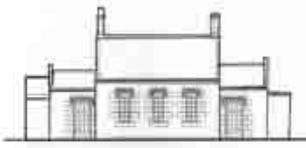
Come with your friends to enjoy a peaceful haven and watch the wildlife.

Tickets from

Carol Robson (0777 373 8442), Sibell Pigg (790354) and Dorothy McMillan (d).

Parking is limited so please car share if possible.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees, at their meeting on 17th March expressed their sincere thanks to Richard Tordoff and his son, James and to David Jordon for their help with the moving and spreading of the gravel over the car park. This has made a significant improvement to the environment at the front of the Hall.

Consideration was given to the costs of redecorating the Sports Hall which is beginning to look a little tatty, the laying of grass reinforcement mesh at the rear of the Hall to help with parking in wet weather and taking action to improve the water pressure in the kitchen. This is likely to cost £4 - 5000 and the Association does not have the resources for these projects at present. The raising of rental charges was considered but the Trustees decided against this course of action for the time being. However, they agreed to encourage and participate in an 'Open Gardens Weekend' in 2017 as a means of raising the capital sums required.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

THANK YOU

We enjoyed an inspiring evening at the end of January when Sean Murray shared with us his experiences as the winner of the BBC's Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. Through your generosity we raised £250 towards the development of the garden which Sean is designing at Grace House, the new Children's Hospice in Sunderland, and £365 for St John's Church vestry re-development. Thank you all so much.

Jill Elphick

PARISH OUTING

Visit **Adderston Mains, Belford**, a Victorian farmhouse with both established and new projects in development with Sean Murray, on Sunday 17th July when the gardens will be open for the NGS between 1 and 5pm. Interested? Please let Jill Elphick (e) know and we hope to run a bus trip there for the afternoon.

Jill Elphick

LONGHIRST RESIDENT CHRISTENS VIKING SHIP

Viking launched 6 new longships in Amsterdam in March, each being christened by a different "Godmother". This is a tradition that goes back more than 4000 years with a Godmother breaking a bottle of champagne on the bow and providing a blessing for the safety of the ship's crew and passengers.

Beryl Gibson was given the honour of christening one of these ships, the Viking Vilhjalm, as her Company (Northumbria Travel) are the leading UK independent agents for Viking. The other Godmothers were all American.

This year Viking chose to honour their Travel Agent partners, but in the past celebrities like Joanna Lumley and Mary Berry have performed the task.

A video of the event can be seen on YouTube - Viking Longships Christening 2016.



WANSBECK VALLEY FOOD BANK

Do you need help or know anyone who does? Wansbeck Valley Food Bank will provide food for at least three days. To help them serve those in genuine need clients must be recommended by one of their association supporters. For more information telephone 07841 908477 (no texts) or e-mail: wansbeckvalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

Please continue your donations of food which can be left at either the Village Hall or the Church and in particular UHT milk and tinned fruit are requested at present. Any tin, jar or packet can be used as long as it's got a "shelf life". Thank you.

Dennis Hodges

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



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

3rd April - Holy Communion at 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm St. Andrews

10th April - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm St. John's

17th April - Holy Communion 9.30am St. John's; Evensong at 4pm St. Andrews

24th April - Holy Communion 9.30am St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm St. John's

1st May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm at St. Andrews

8th May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

15th May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong at 4pm at St. Andrews

22nd May - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm at St. John's

30th May - Combined service 10.15am at St. Margaret's Pegswood

Home Communion on Friday 8th April and 13th May at 11am is at the home of Mary McGill and Laura Hughes, The Dairy, Dairy Lane, Longhirst. For more information contact Linda Mowbray (f).

At our AGM in March Bill Wake was warmly thanked for his work as PCC Secretary and Jill Elphick now takes on this responsibility. We are delighted to welcome Dorothy and Keith Launchbury on to the PCC and look forward to another busy year.

Following recent thefts of the oil for the central heating we have had a steel box built around the tank which is secured by steel bars, three screaming padlocks, watched by CCTV and lit by security lighting. This cost nearly £3,000, some of which has been covered by grants/donations but we still have to find £500.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Saturday 9th April - Spring Fayre in the Village Hall - see page 1.

Wednesday 27th April - Carol Robson is holding another **Wildlife Watch Day** - see page 3.

Saturday 18th June - our traditional **Church Fete** in the Village Hall from 2pm when our annual Grand Raffle will be drawn. If you could spare an hour to help sell raffle tickets/collect for the Church either in Morrisons on Friday 15th April, in the Sanderson Arcade on Saturday 7th May or Asda on Tuesday 31st May please contact Jill Elphick (e).

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Pancake and Beetle drive which raised £213 for Church funds.

Jill Elphick

VICAR'S LETTER



The custom of putting the image of a reigning monarch on the coinage was one of those ways in which a king or queen made their presence felt among their subjects in days gone by. It was then an important aspect of promoting their charisma and though modern broadcasting and numerous other forms of communication have long since superseded it, the symbol endures. On any coin, alongside the Queen's head, name and the date we find the inscription FD - "Fidei Defensor" - Defender of the Faith, a title first acquired by English monarchs in the 16th Century and kept hold of ever since. Thus Queen Elizabeth, whose 90th birthday will be marked in Longhirst at a **Special Coffee Morning on 11th June**, has been defending the Christian faith for a very long time. Her yearly Christmas broadcast is perhaps the occasion where she is best able to give clear, verbal expression to her Christian faith, while at the same time managing to convey it in an inclusive kind of way, with something in it for people of all faiths and none. One example will suffice from her broadcast at Christmas 2011 where she reflected on human nature, Jesus and forgiveness,

"Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general - but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love."

What better way is there to defend our community, our friendships, our families and yes, our own souls too, than by so valuing reconciliation and forgiveness, with their universal appeal and benefit, than by seeking to live in the manner in which the Defender of the Faith herself has commended to us?

John Park

THE MILE OF PENNIES APPEAL

The mile of pennies fund is still going strong and has so far raised £1,369 for the Village Hall and the Church. This equates to a mile and 1,358 yards. The 2 mile post is almost in sight.



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 (c)

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)
February	Ticket No. 249 Mandy Anderson	Ticket No. 236 June Lumsden	Ticket No. 93 Claire Whitfield
March	Ticket No. 88 Susan Shirley	Ticket No. 69 Peter Coates	Ticket No. 90 Peter Anderson

Mike Elphick

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

Friday 1 st	Late blue bin collection in the Village	
Wednesday 6 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 8 th	11am Home Communion at The Dairy	(f)
Saturday 9 th	10am - 2pm SPRING FAYRE in Village Hall - see page 1 10am Litters Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(d) (r)
Friday 15 th	10am - 4pm Collecting in Morrisons for St. John's Church	(e)
Tuesday 19 th	2pm Mother's Union meeting in St Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 20 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 24 th	Village amble in Northumberland	(l)
Wednesday 27 th	Wildlife Day at Carol Robson's - see page 3	

MAY

Wednesday 4 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 6 th	Late black bin collection in the Village	
Saturday 7 th	10am - 4pm Selling Grand Raffle Tickets in Sanderson Arcade	(e)
Thursday 12 th	7pm Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 13 th	11am Home communion at The Dairy	(f)
Friday 13 th	Deadline for items for June/July Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 14 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Monthly Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (t)
Tuesday 17 th	2pm Mother's Union meeting in St Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 18 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 29 th	10.15am Combined service on 5 th Sunday in St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Tuesday 31 st	10am - 2pm Selling Grand Raffle Tickets in Asda	(e)

JUNE

Friday 3 rd	Late black bin collection in the Village	
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REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Junior (7 - 14yrs) Activities Club in V Hall 6.30 - 7.30 every Tuesday during term time
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 8.15pm (please contact Claire Coates (k))
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery Friday 8th/22nd April and 6th/20th May

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 11th June - Special Coffee Morning to mark the Queen's 90th birthday

Saturday 18th June - Church Fete

Sunday 4th 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)
- Churchwardens** - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail: dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk (d)
Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail: mike.elphick@virgin.net (c)
- PCC Secretary** - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail: jill.elphick@virgin.net (e)
- Home Communion Contact** - Linda Mowbray 791627 (f)
- Mothers Union** - Jean Richardson 504960 / e-mail : jeanandjimr@hotmail.com (g)
- Longhirst Parish Association** - Gill Featonby 812447 / e-mail: gfeatonby@btinternet.com (h)
- Village Hall Bookings** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail: mike.elphick@virgin.net (c)
- Luncheon Club** - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail: barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk (i)
- Badminton** - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail: pandc@petercoates.plus.com (k)
- Junior Activities Club** - Linda Mowbray 791627 (f)
Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail: mike.elphick@virgin.net (c)
- Longhirst Amblers** - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: pandc@petercoates.plus.com (l)
- Garden Association** - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail: chrismarr@btinternet.com (p)
- Longhirst Hundred Club** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail: mike.elphick@virgin.net (c)
- Parish Voluntary Litter Clearance** - Chris Lediard 790268 / chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk (r)
- Fair Trade Coffee Mornings** - Margaret Lediard 790268 / margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk (t)
- Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** - Bill Climson 816075 / e-mail: billclimson@gmail.com (m)
- Village Website** - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Alan Block 790282 / ablock@lineone.net (u)
Bjoern Backe / bbacke@nettranslator.co.uk (w)
- Church Website** - www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk (b)

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- Myra Jackson - Sydney Cottage, Longhirst Colliery: 813851, myra.jackson1@googlemail.com
- Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (x)
- Rosemary Horsley: 30 Micklewood Close : rosemaryjh@btinternet.com (z)

This issue was sponsored by
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If you require a copy in large print please let us know.