

# LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2016 / January 2017



*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 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**10am – 12 noon**



Christmas gifts : Preserves : Phoenix cards and stationery  
Hand made goods from Moon Magic and Woodhorn Matters  
Woodruff Wood and local artists

**Raffle for Christmas Hampers**

**Admission £3 (children 50p) which includes coffee.**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Would you like a Village New Year's Eve Party, suitable for all ages, in the Village Hall? This could include a shared supper, various games and a quiz with the table tennis, pool and air hockey being available. If you are interested please contact Chris Lediard (r). Thank you.

### NEW MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL GROUP

We are delighted to welcome Margot Deas (z) from Micklewood Close to the Editorial Group. She is replacing Rosemary Horsley and we should like to thank Rosemary for her contribution over the last 2 years.

Our first 'Micklewood Matters' article is on page 3 and we would like it to be a regular feature so please do not hesitate to contact Margot if you would like to submit an item for inclusion (see the back page (z) for her contact details).

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Longhirst Parish Council met on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

A resident from **Micklewood** asked if they could be represented on the Council and it was agreed that a **Community Representative** could be appointed to speak at PC meetings on their behalf. Two local Police Community Officers were present and they informed us that there has only been 1 **theft in the Parish** in the last 2 months and this has yet to be resolved. They asked us to remind residents to keep garages, cars and outbuildings locked at all times and not to leave valuables in the car. They now operate from Ashington.

**Matters arising** - There has been no further communication from the **Golf Club** after their presentation at the last meeting. The **rubbish bin in the bus shelter** has been re-sited outside. NCC has installed new **street lighting** which has been well received.

**Planning issues** - the change of use from business to residential for the **cricket pavilion** at Longhirst Hall was refused but since then a new application has been received to renovate the pavilion into a bungalow. This application was narrowly approved by County Councillors. Alan Sambrook was thanked for speaking at the meeting and for his help and support. Two new plans have been received from **Longhirst Hall**, seeking listed building consent for internal changes and alterations and an application to renovate the Old Coach House. These have now been approved. General concerns were expressed by the Parish Councillors and visitors as to how much building work was being allowed in the Longhirst Hall Estate considering that it is in a conservation area and the Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Department Manager and invite him to a meeting to discuss the current situation. This would also include the lack of access to the Village amenities except by a long diversion beside the busy main road.

A new application has been submitted to create access/appearance/landscaping for the construction of 2 houses on the north side of **Dairy Lane**. An outline planning application has been received for the construction of 7 houses east of **Fawdon House**.

**Finance** - the PC audit has been completed and approved. The Council agreed to a donation of £50 to NALC as in previous years.

**Parish maintenance** - Richard Tordoff and Ian Thompson have agreed to check the whole Parish and see what work needs to be done and if we are able to do it or if contractors need to be brought in next season. The Colliery Lonnen has not yet been repaired.

The **next meeting** will be **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017** at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Catherine Farrell

## PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

We have been advised by iNorthumberland at County Hall that the installation of fibre broadband for the Ulgham (790/791) numbers should be carried out next spring. This is welcome news for those who will benefit, but we need to see Openreach vans arriving in the centre of the Village to really believe it is happening!

iNorthumberland have also said that they are investigating the possibility of a scheme to install fibre broadband for the Ashington numbers in the Parish. If it is agreed that such a scheme is viable then it could be largely funded by NCC but may require some local community funding. They have undertaken to give us more information as soon as it becomes available. Progress with Alncom in supplying a wireless broadband network for the Ashington numbers is slow but is not being overlooked!

For more information please contact Peter Coates (I).

## MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two couples who have very recently moved into Micklewood. Arlette and Walter, both retired, are now living in number 11 and Helen and George, a teacher and a data analyst are our newest residents in number 32.



The developers have begun clearing the site at the west side of Micklewood in preparation for the building of five new detached houses. Work on Longhirst Hall is ongoing and four timber garages have been erected to house three cars each. The Spa, which has been renamed Micklewood House, is in it's final stages of completion and awaiting the arrival of it's new occupants.

Margot Deas (z)

## OPEN GARDENS AND CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2017



The small enthusiastic group leading this event have had their first meeting and confirmed the date as the **first weekend in July** next summer. Please make sure this goes into your diary now as we will need lots of helpers to welcome and look after all the visitors to the Village. We have volunteers to lead most of the main areas of the event **BUT have a real need for someone to help us with publicity**. Ideally this would cover setting up a web site and facebook page; contact with local daily press and journals together with producing posters and flyers - all on a minimal budget or possibly sponsored! A tall order we know but if you feel you might have anything to contribute please let us know.

In the meantime if you would like to **open your Garden** or would like to know more about what this entails please contact Linda Mowbray (f). If you have any ideas, useful contacts or resources you could put us in touch with we would be delighted to hear from you.

Watch this space and we will keep you informed of our progress once we get into 2017.

Jill (e) and Mike Elphick (c)

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Longhirst Parish Association will be held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** in the Village Hall and nomination papers for Elected Trustees can be obtained from the secretary, Mike Elphick (c).



As always, the Trustees will be keen to listen and respond to ideas from the community about how the Village Hall, its services and environs can be improved so please come to the AGM and have your say or let the Secretary or one of the Trustees know about your ideas.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## CAROL SINGING

A small group of Carol singers will be out and about in the Village on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Please join us if you can, everyone is very welcome, and we will meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. We would welcome your ideas for local charities that the money raised from carol singing and our other Christmas activities should be donated to. Thank you.

Carol Robson (x)

## LET US SING & BAKE FOR YOU !

Cameron and Arran Kirk invite you to a **coffee afternoon and musical concert** in the Village Hall on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 - 4.30pm**

In July 2017 I am participating in World Challenge for a month in Malaysia and Borneo. World Challenge is an organisation which arranges for young people to be involved in a charity-based project in a third world country. This may be to help build a well, a school or other infrastructure projects. This trip also includes two expeditions in jungle conditions one in each country to encourage leadership, teamwork, build resilience and learn valuable life skills. Young people participating have to raise a considerable amount of money to fund their trip.

Many of you will know I've sung at various events in the past and have raised over £1500 for St. Oswald's Hospice. As part of my fund-raising, my brother Arran (13) and two friends, Cressey (17) and Tilly (15) would like to entertain you with a concert. We will sing a variety of music, including musical theatre and other well-known pieces, which we hope you will enjoy.

Tickets are £5 and include tea / coffee and our own home-baking! We would be delighted if you would join us. If you are able to contact us in advance to book tickets on 791681 so that we have an idea of numbers, that would be fantastic, although the tickets themselves can be purchased on the door. With thanks for your support.

Cameron Kirk ( Age 16 )

## ANOTHER ACCOLADE FOR BERYL GIBSON

We reported in April that Beryl, from Northumbrian Travel, had christened a Viking Longship. As the result of a public vote she has now received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Cruise International for her work over the past three decades. Well done Beryl!

## WE WELCOME THE BISHOP OF BERWICK

It is a delight to welcome to the community The Right Reverend Mark Tanner, his wife and family. Mark was consecrated Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, in a service at York Minster earlier this year on 18th October and will work alongside The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle. He will be officially welcomed in a special service at St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle, at 11.00am on Saturday 3rd December. As he begins his ministry in the Newcastle Diocese, (which is, roughly speaking, the County of Northumberland) he and his family will be living in Pegswood on Longhirst Road.

Mark will be only the second Bishop of Berwick, a title not held since 1572. He brings with him wide and varied experience of church life including youth work, military chaplaincy, he has been vicar of several parishes and has published several books. Most recently he has been Vice Principal of St John's College, Durham University, working in the education and training of those preparing to work in the church.

Looking forward, Mark said, "It is such a delight to be invited to serve the people, communities, and churches of the Diocese of Newcastle. For 444 years there has not been a Bishop of Berwick; the revival of the post is a wonderful sign of hope and life! God and His church are alive and well, and the message of Jesus continues to transform lives, grow community, and bring hope today. God has so much for each of us in Christ, and I look forward to all that we will explore together."

I am sure everyone will want to extend to Mark and his family every happiness and all good wishes as they settle into the community.

John Park

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The coffee morning in Ulgham raised approximately £400. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Val Thompson

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Team United

Our time in Texas was a wonderful experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Competing was really good fun and we got lots of ideas on how to improve as we hope to compete again in the future.

We visited the Capital Hill building and learnt lots about American politics. We also saw some of the Grand Prix and Taylor Swift in concert which was great. All in all, we had an amazing time, and thank you to all Longhirst Parish residents who supported us.

Grace Hanson

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our combined services at Longhirst and Bothal for December and January are as follows and we offer you all a very warm invitation to join us:-

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - St. John's, Holy Communion at 9.30am

Prayers for healing at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood at 4pm.

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - St. Andrew's Bothal at 9.30am - Evensong at 4.00pm at the Rectory

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - St. John's Holy Communion at 9.30am

St. Margaret's Pegswood, Carol Service and Tea at 3.00pm Bothal Carol Service at 6.00pm.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Family Carol Service at 6.00pm and**

**Midnight Service at 11.30pm both at St. John's Longhirst**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Day Service 10.15am at St. Margaret's, Pegswood**

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - St. John's, Holy Communion at 9.30am with Evensong at 4pm in the Rectory

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - St. Andrew's, Bothal at 9.30am with Evensong at 4pm in the Rectory

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - St. John's, Holy Communion at 9.30am with Evensong at 4pm in the Rectory

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> - St. Andrew's, Bothal at 9.30am with Evensong at 4pm in the Rectory

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> - St. Margaret's, Pegswood at 10.15am Combined Benefice Service

We invite you to join us for our **Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 10am and 12noon in Longhirst Village Hall** (see page 1). Once again we would be most grateful for donations towards the Christmas Hampers to Linda Rudd (i), and items for the Christmas Stall left at No. 17 The Village.

We will meet on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at 6.30pm in the Village Hall for Carol Singing around the Village (see page 3) and on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** at 10am to clean and decorate the Church (e). It would be lovely to see some new faces on either occasion and you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Our recent fund raising has been both enjoyable and successful and we thank you all for your support. The Harvest Supper raised £175 for Daybreak, a local organisation providing day care for people with disabilities. The Annual Steeplechase completed by Sibell Pigg and friends raised £300, the Pie and Pea supper in September raised £285, the Jumble Sale £335 and the recent Foodies Evening £264 which will all go towards the running expenses of St. John's Church.

There will be a Beetle Drive on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February and the Felton Bridge Singers have accepted an invitation to entertain us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Jill Elphick (e)

## VICAR'S LETTER



*"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even."*

If Good King Wenceslas was one of my top two favourite Christmas carols when I was a youngster, it wasn't on account of the words - they were a challenge. Try spelling his name when you are seven years old and then getting your head around who Stephen was and why the King was watching him eat his feast outside in the middle of winter. No, I think it was the cheerful and uplifting tune that did it for me, so in keeping with the time of year and conjuring an image of Wenceslas as generous and jolly, a larger than life figure who would have been fun to be with. I can't help feeling he would have appreciated a Christmas joke doing the rounds at his expense few years ago: how does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza? Deep and crisp and even (of course).

Like many carols there is a story behind it, in this case probably more legend than fact. It turns out that Good King Wenceslas was a tenth century Duke of Bohemia which is now the western part of the Czech Republic. He ruled from the age of 18, sought to govern his people with mercy and justice and is best known for his acts of kindness and generosity - one of which has been immortalized in the carol. During that time he became revered by his people. However at the age of 28, Wenceslas was murdered on his way to church but his influence only grew as a result of his martyrdom. He was posthumously elevated to the rank of King and is today the patron saint of the Czech state.

The carol however is English, written in 1853 by the hymn-writer John Mason Neale. Despite the efforts of pompous purist critics over the years the carol is still popular, the tune continues to uplift, the words to challenge and I expect many readers are familiar with it. Wenceslas watches a poor man collecting firewood on a cold winter's night, December 26<sup>th</sup>, the Feast day of St. Stephen and having ascertained from a servant where the man lives he commands the servant to gather meat, drink, and firewood which they will deliver personally to the poor man's home, despite the long distance. The servant almost gives up, but Wenceslas calls on him to walk directly behind him and miraculously, the servant can feel the saint's warmth as he walks in his footprints. It concludes with a call to all people to do as the servant did, follow in Wenceslas' footsteps, bless those in need with kindness, a little human warmth and in that find a blessing for themselves.

*"Therefore, Christians all be sure, wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."*

So if you get the chance to sing the carol this Christmas or maybe read it in an old hymn book, understand the example that the old saint sets for us - and do likewise this Christmas season and always. I wish you and yours a happy and peaceful Christmas.

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)
<b>October</b>	Ticket No. 233 <b>Christine Thomas</b>	Ticket No. 122 <b>Amander Sayers</b>	Ticket No. 28 <b>Bill Jordon</b>
<b>November</b>	Ticket No. 118 <b>Phil Hourigan (for Daniel)</b>	Ticket No. 125 <b>Doreen Hodges</b>	Ticket No. 174 <b>Richard Tordoff (for James)</b>

Mike Elphick

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

<b>SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>10 - 12noon CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING</b> in the Village Hall	(e)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	12noon Mother's Union Christmas Lunch	(g)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6.00pm</b> Parish Association AGM in the Village Hall	(c)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Holy Communion at The Dairy, Longhirst Village	(f)
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall Please note: No Village Coffee Morning this month	(r)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm Afternoon tea and entertainment with the Kirks in V Hall	Page 4
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Carol singers meet at Village Hall	(x)
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Meet to clean and decorate the Church	(e)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Family Carol Service in St. John's, Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight Service at St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am Christmas Day Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Late black bin collection after Christmas	
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm New Year's Eve Party in the Village Hall	(c) (r)

### JANUARY

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Deadline for items for February/March Longhirst Leader</b> <b>e-mail to: <a href="mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com">claire@petercoates.plus.com</a></b>	<b>Editorial Group</b>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Late blue bin collection after New Year	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Home Communion at The Dairy, Longhirst Village	(f)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Fair Trade Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (c)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Mother's Union AGM at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am Joint Benefice service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)

## 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 Tuesdays at 8.00pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10.00am in Village/4.00pm in Colliery 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December; 13<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> January

## FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Beetle Drive

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Felton Bridge Singers.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Church Fete

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>/Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk) (a)
- Vicar** - Rev. John Park 510793 / e-mail : [johnp2910@gmx.co.uk](mailto:johnp2910@gmx.co.uk) (b)
- Assistant Curate** - Rev. Lee Cleminson 519398 / e-mail : [Revleecleminson@gmail.com](mailto:Revleecleminson@gmail.com) (j)
- 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)
- Home Communion Contact** - Linda Mowbray 791627 (f)
- Mothers Union** - Jean Richardson 504960 / e-mail : [jeanandjimr@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanandjimr@hotmail.com) (g)
- Longhirst Parish Association** - Gill Featonby 812447 / e-mail : [gfeatonby@btinternet.com](mailto:gfeatonby@btinternet.com) (h)
- Village Hall Bookings** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)
- Open Gardens Weekend** - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [jill.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.elphick1@gmail.com) (e)
- Luncheon Club** - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : [barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk](mailto:barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk) (i)
- Badminton** - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : [pandc@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:pandc@petercoates.plus.com) (k)
- Junior Activities Club** - Linda Mowbray 791627 (f)  
Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)
- Longhirst Amblers** - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: [pandc@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:pandc@petercoates.plus.com) (l)
- Garden Association** - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail: [chrismarr@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismarr@btinternet.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)
- Fair Trade Coffee Mornings** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)
- Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** - Bill Climson 816075 / e-mail: [billclimson@gmail.com](mailto:billclimson@gmail.com) (m)
- Village Website** - [www.longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://www.longhirstvillage.co.uk) - Alan Block 790282 / [ablock@lineone.net](mailto:ablock@lineone.net) (u)  
Bjoern Backe / [bbacke@nettranslator.co.uk](mailto:bbacke@nettranslator.co.uk) (w)
- Church Website** - [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

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- Jill Elphick - Howarth Cottage: 790764, [jill.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.elphick1@gmail.com) (e)
- Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 791088, [claire@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com) (k,l)
- Myra Jackson - Sydney Cottage, Longhirst Colliery: 813851, [myra.jackson1@gmail.com](mailto:myra.jackson1@gmail.com)
- Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (x)
- Margot Deas - 3 Micklewood Close : 790218, [jedred2@yahoo.ie](mailto:jedred2@yahoo.ie) (z)



This issue was sponsored by

## The Mulan Chinese Restaurant

Woodlea, High Stanners, Morpeth, NE61 1QL Tel : 01670 503 288

Opening Times:

Mon-Thurs: 18:00-23:00, Fri-Sat: 12:00-14:00 + 18:00-23:30, Sunday: 18:00-23:00

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