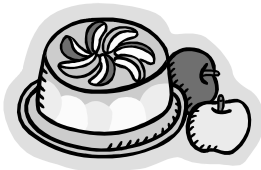


LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2016

LONGHIRST GARDEN ASSOCIATION - FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE SHOW



Sixteen people attended a meeting held on 18th January to discuss the future of the Village Fruit and Vegetable Show. The general consensus was that the Show should continue.



Twelve of those present stated they were prepared to take part in either an organising capacity or to supervise activities on the day (Tombola, Raffle etc.).

Quite what the format of a 'new' Show, its content and how it will be organised are yet to be decided. It was felt that the biggest changes might be seen in the flower and vegetable sections. We also need to decide on a date for the Show and whether it should be held on a Saturday or Sunday.

Ideas from anyone in the Parish would be most welcome and can be voiced when the AGM is held at 7pm on **Monday 22nd February** in the Village Hall.

It was felt that instead of a single Secretary the Show could be divided into sections with one or two people running each section. Interest was shown by those present in organising the crafts and flowers & vegetables sections. That leaves the baking, photographs and children's sections looking for organisers. Helpers will also be needed to set out tables, serve teas, run the auction, clear up, etc.

The Treasurer is happy to continue but we need a new Chairman.

There is already a volunteer to do some of the background administration and Gill Featonby is happy to continue printing the schedules and prize tickets.

The future of the Show is still not secure so if you are willing to help or have suggestions with regard to its organisation or content please come to the meeting on 22nd February. If you cannot make the meeting please contact me (p) in advance and I will be happy to pass on your name and ideas.

Bob Jackson (Chairman)

PANCAKE AND BEETLE DRIVE



Due to popular demand we are running this fun evening again on **Friday 12th February** at 7pm in the Village Hall. Pancakes with your favourite toppings and a beetle drive will be provided! The charge will be £5 per head in aid of Church funds. If you would like to go please contact Carol Robson (x) by Monday 8th February.



Carol Robson

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Longhirst Parish Council report for Thursday 7th January.

The meeting opened with the local PC Community Officer telling us of a further **theft of oil** from the Church. Also there have been numerous examples of **poachers** in the area using dogs to worry sheep. She asked for residents to be extra vigilant and report incidents to the police and if possible take photographs of any suspicious looking vehicles and their registration numbers.

A new proposed system for the **audit of accounts** for 2015-16 was discussed. For small parishes like ourselves a yearly balance sheet will still be produced and then made available for public scrutiny. It was agreed that we would notify NALC that this is the scheme we would like to follow. It was agreed to maintain the **precept** at its present level of £3,250. With a significant increase in the number of households within the Parish this will result in an individual reduction for the local council on 2016-17 council tax. It was also agreed to continue with the present tenancy agreement for the **Parish football field** and the Clerk will make up a new agreement to be offered to Mr. Jordan.

Bob Jackson has put together a working party to look into the ongoing problems of the **use of the C125 leading to North East Grains**. He has gathered copies of all paperwork between the PC and the County Council/Highways going back to 1982 and will be in a position to report to the PC at the next meeting.

There have been a number of **problems on the roads** arising from the recent heavy rain and lack of maintenance by the Highways Department over the last few months. Richard Tordoff and the Clerk will collate these issues and a letter will be sent to the Highways Department. Drainage at the Colliery is a major concern and it was suggested that a Highways Officer be invited to the next meeting. Richard Tordoff thought that perhaps some of these issues could be dealt with by the Parish themselves and the Chair suggested that a list is made over the coming year of everything that needs doing, drainage, grass cutting etc., and costs looked into for tackling some of these jobs. Alan Sambrook gave the Clerk the name of the NCC officer who will be able to advise over the **increase in house sale signs** and the siting thereof, which is causing concern.

Peter Coates was able to give a brief update on the **broadband** situation in the Parish. Ulgham exchange numbers (790.. and 791..) should be getting access to fibre broadband within the next year. Most of the Morpeth numbers appear to be receiving lower speeds than they should and this has been reported to BT/Openreach. Wireless broadband systems are still under investigation for areas which will not benefit .

The **planning application** regarding the variation of conditions for Butterwell disposal point has been approved. Concern regarding the **re-opening of the C126** was raised as this is supposed to be happening in January, but the recent weather may be holding up the work. The Clerk will contact the site and ask about progress. Bob Jackson raised the issue of the state of the lonnen, south east of the Colliery, which is in a bad state of repair. The clerk will contact David Jordan to see if he can put down hardcore.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd March** at 7pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend.

Catherine Farrell

STOP PRESS - PARISH BROADBAND WORKING GROUP

Although BT/Openreach have not been forthcoming iNorthumberland have just advised us that the "Rollout" of their next phase of Fibre Broadband starts in August/September. They cannot yet say, however, when Longhirst numbers on the Ulgham exchange (790.. and 791..) will have their new cabinet installed. Watch this space for further news!

Peter Coates

THE LUNCHEON CLUB DILEMMA



After nine years of service, Gill Featonby's health is such that she must relinquish her role as one of our four lead Luncheon Club cooks and all those who have attended the Club over the years know what a great job she has done.

We now face the challenge of finding a replacement for Gill.

The role involves planning menus in discussion with the other three cooks, purchasing, or arranging for another team member to purchase the ingredients and, with the help of the rest of the team, cooking and serving the meal on the first Wednesday of every other month. Carol Robson (x), Linda Rudd (i) and/or Margaret Lediard (t) would be happy to discuss the role with anyone who would like more information before deciding whether to volunteer.

I need hardly say that unless we can find a replacement for Gill, the Luncheon Club will only be able to operate three times instead of four in every two months.

Mike Elphick (p)

SPRING FAYRE



There will be a SPRING FAYRE - TABLE TOP SALE in the Village Hall on **Saturday 9th April**, 10am - 2pm. The 'Tables' will be £15 and if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in having one, or you have any suggestions to improve on our recent similar events please contact Dorothy McMillan (d) as soon as possible. The 'Fayre Tables' will be set out in the main hall; we will sell refreshments, bacon butties, soup, tea, coffee, etc. in the small hall and the whole event is in aid of St. John's Church.

Dorothy McMillan

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Longhirst Parish Association held its Annual General Meeting on 10th December and we were all delighted to welcome Margo Deas from Micklewood Park to join Beryl Gibson, Margaret Lediard and Ian Thompson as the Community elected Trustees. The Trustees representing user groups are Gill Featonby, Sandy Eagan-Fowler, June Lumsden, Carol Robson, and Sibell Pigg. This leaves a couple of vacancies which need to be filled by appointments from the Garden Association and the Badminton Club.

We wish a very happy New Year to everyone who uses the Hall and ask that you continue to let our Trustees know of any problems we need to solve or improvements we can make to this valuable community resource.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

MESSAGE FROM MICKLEWOOD

The Coffee Morning that the Parish Council organised to welcome the residents of Micklewood was well attended and very successful. It was suggested that it would be good to have a regular slot in the Leader under the by-line 'Message from Micklewood'. Are you willing to volunteer to do this or can you suggest someone who might? If so, please contact Rosemary Horsley (z) or any other member of the Editorial Group.

Editorial Group

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

We hold a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on the second Saturday of every month and they seem to be increasingly popular which is great! This social occasion is open to all, young and old alike, and as well as coffee we serve tea, hot chocolate and soft drinks together with biscuits - all for £1.50 for adults and 50p for children.



We would like to draw up a rota of individuals or families who are prepared to take responsibility for making the coffee and ensuring that the morning runs smoothly. Any offers? Please contact me if you would like to help or would like more information. Thank you.

Margaret Lediard (t)

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Our **local Post Office**, with Greengrocers, Greetings cards, new Special £1 Offers and lots more is in Walden Terrace, Pegswood. It is run by Ian Brown and he offers friendly service and **free local delivery**, telephone 07919 420526.

Jill Elphick

RECOMMENDED TRADESMEN

Gary Redfearn - plumbing and oil boilers (oftec registered) tel. 07711 786329.

Steven Cook - plumbing and gas boilers (gas safe registered) tel. 01670 857645, mobile 07939300751.

They are both excellent plumbing and heating engineers who are very hard workers with competitive prices.

Catherine Farrell

We thoroughly recommend Mark Tait from **North East Cleaning Systems** who recently cleaned most of our carpets, not cheap but well worth it. Mark is a very polite and tidy worker and we are still dazzled by the colours that we now see! Contact him on 0790 9973231 or marktait1974@gmail.com.

Jill and Mike Elphick

Having problems with your computer? We would recommend Steve from **Behest Computer Services in Pegswood** - prompt and reliable service, £28 per hour with a £3 call out charge. Contact Steve on 01670 898431.

Jill and Mike Elphick

VILLAGE WALKS IN NORTHUMBERLAND



We call ourselves the 'Longhirst Amblers' and are a small group who meet on the fourth Sunday of every other month for a walk of 5 or 6 miles to enjoy fresh air, exercise and good conversation somewhere scenic, usually in Northumberland. Our next walk is on **Sunday 28th February**.

If you are interested in joining us then, or possibly in the future, please contact me (I) for further details. I will be very happy to add you to our contact list.

Peter Coates

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



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

7th Feb - Holy Communion at 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong at 4pm the Rectory

14th Feb - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm the Rectory

21st Feb - Holy Communion 9.30am St. John's; Evensong at 4pm in the Rectory

28th Feb - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm the Rectory

6th Mar - Mothering Sunday Family Service 10am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

13th Mar - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's; Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

20th Mar - Palm Sunday 9.30am at St. John's; Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

28th Mar - Easter Service 9.30am at St. Andrew's

Our **Lent Services** start on **Ash Wednesday** 10th February with Communion at 9.30am in St. Margaret's Pegswood and 7.30pm at St. John's Longhirst. Then on Wednesday evenings there will be devotional meetings at 7.30pm in Longhirst Village Hall - please contact Jane Park jane.park4762@gmail.com for details. Services will be held throughout the Benefice during Holy Week, including St. John's on **Good Friday** 25th March with Morning Prayer at 9.30am. **Home Communion** on Friday 12th February and 11th March at 11am is at the home of Mary McGill and Laura Hughes, The Dairy, Dairy Lane, Longhirst. For more information contact Linda Mowbray (f).

Dates for your Diary - and we look forward to seeing you at these events:-

Pancake and Beetle Drive on **Friday 12th February** 7pm - see page 1

Church AGM on **Sunday 13th March** at 6pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Spring Fayre on **Saturday 9th April** in the Village Hall - details from Dorothy McMillan (d)

Wildlife Watch Day on **Wednesday 27th April** at Carol Robson's

Our traditional **Church Fete** on **Saturday 18th June** in the Village Hall from 2pm.

We thank you all for your help with recent fund raising. During the festive season £532 was collected from Carol singing, the Family Carol Service and the Luncheon Club. This has been split between The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Autism Northumberland based in Cramlington. Our Christmas Coffee Morning raised £763, Carol's Diary £520 and the Steeplechase £136, all for Church funds.

Jill Elphick

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3 rd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Wednesday 10 th	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion at St. John's	(b)
Friday 12 th	7pm Pancake supper and Beetle Drive	(x)
Saturday 13 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Monthly Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (t)
Tuesday 16 th	2pm Mother's Union AGM meeting at St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(c)
Wednesday 17 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Monday 22 nd	7pm Garden Association AGM / Planning the future of Village Show	(p)
Sunday 28 th	Village Walk in Northumberland	(l)

MARCH

Wednesday 2 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 3 rd	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
Sunday 6 th	10am Mothering Sunday family service at St. John's	(b)
Friday 11 th	Deadline for items for the April/May Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 12 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.15am Monthly Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (t)
Sunday 13 th	6pm St. John's Church AGM in Longhirst Village Hall	(b)
Tuesday 15 th	12 noon Mother's Union prayer lunch, St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(c)
Wednesday 16 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 20 th	9.30am Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St. John's	(b)
Friday 25 th	9.30 Good Friday Morning Prayer at St. John's	(b)
Sunday 27 th	British Summer time begins, remember to put your clocks forward	

APRIL

Friday 1 st	Late blue 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/4.10pm Colliery Friday 12th/26th February and 11th March

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 9th April - Spring Fayre
 Wednesday 27th April - Wildlife Watch Day
 Saturday 18th June - Church Fete

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 - Bill Wake 790450 / e-mail: whwake@btinternet.com (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 - Bob Jackson 813851 / e-mail: RSJacksonLG@aol.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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Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 791088, claire@petercoates.plus.com (k,l)

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)



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

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