

LONGHIRST LEADER

October / November 2016

POSSIBLE OPEN GARDENS/CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL 2017



People, both from within and outside the Parish, are beginning to enquire about **Open Gardens** next year. The Longhirst Parish Association has asked me to call a meeting to bring together all those who would like to see this happen and are prepared to help. Please join me on **Saturday 8th October at 11.30am** in the Village Hall, after the Coffee Morning, to decide if this is feasible and, if so, to identify a small group of people who would each be prepared to take some responsibility for specific parts of the event - the Gardens, the Church, Publicity, Refreshments, Traffic management and Signage. With these areas covered I feel sure the overall co-ordination would not be a problem. If you are unable to come but would like to play a part in the organisation please let me know. Mike Elphick (c)

LONGHIRST GARDEN ASSOCIATION - VILLAGE SHOW



The 101st Village Show held on Sunday 4th September was a very successful event and the organising group recommend it should continue to keep this Parish tradition alive. We would like to thank everyone who supported the Show by coming along, baking cakes for the refreshments, buying raffle and tombola tickets and, most



importantly of all, those who actually entered vegetables, cakes, flowers, photographs and crafts into the Show so that there was a wonderful display for all to admire. Frequently, during the afternoon, we heard people saying when looking at the exhibits "I think I could certainly do as well as that - if not better!" So, come on, next year we hope to double the number of entries. A full list of the Trophy and Prize winners is displayed in the Village Hall.

The date of the Show in 2017 will be Sunday 3rd September, with the slightly later opening time of 2pm. In the February/March issue of the Longhirst Leader we will give you warning of any changes/or additions to the Schedule so that you have plenty of time to take those winning photographs and order your special seeds. Please, if you have any comments as to improvements we might make, how we might encourage more Junior entries or Classes you would like to see included do let us know as soon as possible. Claire Coates (k) and Jill Elphick (e)

JUMBLE SALE - FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 6pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Please, please don't throw away any of those items you no longer need and are cluttering up your home as we are collecting for a JUMBLE SALE. Clothing, bedding, bric-a-brac, toys, books - you name it we will sell it! If you would like your donations collected please contact me (e) as soon as possible, or bring them along yourself to the Village Hall from Wednesday 19th October.

We always need helpers on these occasions, both to sort prior to the event and to sell. Please let me know when you are available from Thursday afternoon onwards.

Thank you.

Jill Elphick (e)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Longhirst Parish Council met on Thursday 1st September.

Before the meeting representatives from **Longhirst Golf Club** had been invited to outline proposals for installing **holiday homes** surrounding the course. The proposed 475 wooden chalets would be installed in several phases. The entrance would be sited on the Hebron road. Both councillors and members of the public were invited to ask questions which were many and wide ranging. They promised to keep us informed and let us see any further plans.

Peter Coates gave a **broadband update** - see page 3 for more details.

The **track at the Lonnen** is still in need of repair and David Jordon has been approached and will repair it as soon as he can after the harvesting season.

There have been more **thefts from Longhirst Hall** - a tractor and commercial lawnmower were taken. These have been recovered and someone has been charged and is currently on bail. Local residents passed on several pieces of information which led to the arrest. The Police Officer would like us to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and anyone interested in joining such a group should contact the Clerk.

The **estate agent signs** sited opposite the entrance to Longhirst Hall have now been removed after the County Enforcement Officer contacted the estate agents involved. In future signs can only be placed on the land of the property for sale, unless permission is sought from the Parish or County Council.

Planning issues. Change of use from business to residential at the cricket pavilion, **Longhirst Hall** was refused. Since then a new application has been received. No decision as yet. The application to redesign the layout and placement of garages and green areas surrounding Longhirst Hall (variation 2) has been withdrawn. Two new plans regarding Longhirst Hall have been received seeking listed planning consent for changes and alterations internally and permission to carry these out. Details are on the NCC website.

The working party looking into the problem of **traffic on the C125** has received support from the Highways Department for a one way system to and from the grain store. North East Grains has contacted their customers and informed them of the routes to use. Little can be done to reduce the number of tractors, but if the large wagons use a one way system it will help congestion in the Village. Bob Jackson will have further discussions with NEG and the Highways Department to see if there has been any improvement this summer and if further changes could be made.

Parish maintenance. Now that NCC no longer cuts **grass verges** there have been various incidents throughout the Parish eg. flooding, paths blocked and restricted visibility. As a result the safety of both drivers and pedestrians has been put at risk. It was decided that the PC will contact local contractors for a quotation for cutting grass verges. It was also agreed that the **rubbish bin** in the bus shelter will be moved to the outside wall as there have been deposits of dog waste which is both smelly and a health hazard.

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

Catherine Farrell

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

Alcom seem optimistic that they are now in a position to offer wireless broadband to The Old Moor area and The Colliery. They have requested that a survey of the likely level of interest is undertaken and early returns suggest that at least 10 households at Old Moor and 12 at The Colliery would like further information. Alcom have agreed to attend a meeting to provide more details and we are hoping to arrange one in the Hall at The Colliery shortly.

BT/Openreach has been asked to give some indication as to when The Village might receive fibre broadband but they are far from forthcoming at present! Any news will be passed to residents as soon as it is received.

Peter Coates

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The **Annual General Meeting** of the Longhirst Parish Association will be held at **7pm on Thursday 8th December** in the Village Hall and nomination papers for Elected Trustees will accompany this issue of the Longhirst Leader.

As always, the Trustees will be keen to listen and respond to ideas from the community about how the Village Hall and its services 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.

If you want to hire the Hall, give our secretary, Mike Elphick a ring on 790 764. Our charges for local users at present are as follows:-

Local groups (<i>from within the parish</i>) & Parish residents	Use of Reading Room - £6 p.hr. Use of Sports Hall - £8 p.hr.	Use of Both Rooms - £14 p.hr.
These charges include use of the kitchen for drinks & snacks (Fair Trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate & sugar are provided <u>but bring milk</u>) and use of the chairs and tables, cutlery, crockery & glasses.		

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

FOODIES EVENING - SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 7pm

Once again our good friend Anne Arter has agreed to lead a Foodies Evening. This is always a very enjoyable event and a great way to get to know others who live in the Parish in the convivial atmosphere of the Village Hall. The cost for the 3 course meal will be £15 which will include coffee but please bring your own wine. As yet we do not have a menu or theme so any ideas you may have would be very much appreciated.

I hope to have the full menu from which you can select your meal by 8th October although I am happy to take bookings now so that you ensure your place! Please make your menu selections by **Sunday 5th November**.

We will need two teams of 4 on the day - one to help Anne in the kitchen from 4 - 7pm and the other to help with the clearing up. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer. All proceeds raised will be for St. John's Church.

Jill Elphick (e)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

Very many thanks to everyone for their help, kindness and many phone calls over the last few months - you will know who you are! I am beginning to feel more normal again, and blood tests are improving as well, so fingers crossed they will keep on that way!

All the best, Gill Featonby

MISSING GOLF UMBRELLA

The above item went missing from the Afternoon Tea held at the home of Carol Robson on Saturday 20th August. Some person obviously took it by mistake for theirs as the colourings are similar. So far my property has not been returned to Carol's house, which is disappointing as it was an extra prop to me with my walking difficulties. The missing umbrella has green and white panels emblazoned with the name of F.H.Thompson & Sons Ltd - Timber Merchants and the name of goods they sold. This was the name of the family's business. The umbrella left behind, has similar green and white panels with the name James Wellbeloved, Naturally Healthy printed on them. I would be very grateful for the return of my property as soon as possible. The James Wellbeloved umbrella is in safe keeping at Carol Robson's home (x) where it may be swapped for mine.

Thank you, Maureen Lowes

MESSIAH

Sue and Tony Shirley (with two friends) have tickets for the Royal Northern Symphonia performance of the Messiah at the Sage on Saturday 10th December at 7pm. None of us want to drive to and fro in mid-winter but there is no wonderful 'Sage bus' running for this performance. We are therefore considering organising a taxi/minibus ourselves. Obviously the more the merrier and cheaper. If anyone would like to join us please contact Sue or Tony on 01670 505813 or tony.shirley99@yahoo.co.uk.

TEAM UNITED

'Team United' is off to Texas on 13th October to compete in the World F1 Challenge. We have reached our minimum total and are now focused on putting together lots of great work. Thanks so much to everyone who donated, we are really looking forward to going.

You can follow our progress on www.team-united.co.uk.

Grace Hanson

HAVE FUN. PLAY BRIDGE!

Come and learn the most intriguing game in the world. Stimulate your brain. Make new friends. Interested? Then contact Jill Harrison on 791183 to find out more about day and evening classes in Morpeth.

THE MILE OF PENNIES APPEAL

The mile of pennies fund is still going strong and has so far raised £1,393 for the Village Hall and the Church. This equates to a mile and 1,413 yards. The 2 mile post is 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)

CHAIR BASED EXERCISES

Are you interested in doing some simple chair based exercises? I have a DVD produced by Arthritis Care which I would be happy to look at with a few other people and we could take it from there. Please let me know if you would like to be involved.

Jill Elphick (e)

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our combined Morning Holy Communion and Evensong services at St. John's Longhirst and St. Andrew's Bothal for October and November are as follows and we offer you a very warm invitation to join us. On the fifth Sunday of the month we always have a combined benefice service and during the winter months Evensong is held in the Rectory at Pegswood.

October 2nd - 9.30am at St. John's Longhirst and 4pm at St. Andrew's Bothal

October 9th - 9.30am Harvest Service at St. Andrew's Bothal and 4pm at St. John's Longhirst

October 16th - **10am Family Service at St. John's Longhirst** and 4pm at St. Andrew's Bothal

October 23rd - 9.30am at St. Andrew's Bothal and 4pm at St. John's Longhirst

October 30th - 10.15am at St. Margaret's Pegswood

November 6th - 9.30am at St. John's Longhirst and 4pm in the Rectory

November 13th - 9.30am at St. Andrew's Bothal

10.55am at Longhirst War Memorial - Act of Remembrance

November 20th - 9.30am at St. John's Longhirst and 4pm in the Rectory

November 27th - 9.30am at St. Andrew's Bothal and 4pm in the Rectory

2pm Advent Toy Service at St. John's Longhirst

Our Church at work in the community - we have a number of events planned and we would be delighted if you can join us. Over the second weekend in October we celebrate **Harvest Festival** and all the produce we collect will be given to the Wansbeck Food Bank. So please place your donations of non-perishable items in the box in the vestibule in the Village Hall. This year we are hosting the benefice **Harvest Supper** on **Sunday 9th October** at 6pm in Longhirst Village Hall. Supper consists of homemade soup and stottie together with fruit crumble and ice cream. This will be followed by a short musical entertainment with 'Val and Alan Block and Friends'. The charge is £3 for the evening and this will be donated to charity. It would help with the catering if you can let me (e) know if you are coming by **Wednesday 5th October**.

On **Friday 21st October** it is the **Jumble Sale** please see page 1.

On **Saturday 12th November** Anne Arter is leading a **Foodies Evening**, see page 3.

Our **Advent Toy Service** is on **Sunday 27th November at 2pm** in St. John's Church. This is the occasion when we bring toys, wrapped as Christmas presents, with a note attached indicating the age and gender of the child for whom the gift would be appropriate. These are collected during the service and later distributed by the Cedarwood Centre in North Shields.

An advance date for your diaries **Saturday 3rd December** is our annual **Christmas Coffee Morning** which will be held in the Village Hall between 10am and noon - always a lovely occasion and a good way to start all our Christmas celebrations. We do have a 'Christmas Stall' and Raffle of food hampers for which your donations are always most gratefully received.

Our thanks to Carol Robson for her hospitality and everyone who helped and supported the Afternoon Tea event. Despite the very wet weather it was a great success and raised an amazing £500. We have one raffle prize not claimed No. 492. Special thanks go to David Jordon who rescued a stranded car.

Jill Elphick (e)

VICAR'S LETTER



At this time of year Harvest Festivals are being celebrated in churches, schools and community groups. It is surely a good thing to have a point at least once a year when we can stop and remember the abundant provision we have in our country and especially when compared with the profound difficulties faced by many people in other parts of the world, we are reminded that we are very fortunate indeed. Harvest Festivals also engage practically with pressing modern issues as Harvest gifts will be sent to various organisations for distribution to the homeless, to refugees and of course to food banks, the existence of which points to the scandal of the poverty lurking on our doorsteps.

In the modern world I can't help thinking that it also has something to say to life lived in urban and suburban landscapes where people can lose track of where the food on their plates comes from. Ask a child for the origin of potatoes they may well say "Morrison's" or "Asda" and that's why my favourite Harvest hymn is "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land". In fact I don't feel I have celebrated Harvest properly unless it has been sung. As this hymn is traditionally so well connected with the English countryside it may come as a surprise that it has rather different origins.

It was composed in 1782 by Matthias Claudius a Commissioner of Agriculture in Germany, was originally 17 verses long and entitled a "Peasant's Song", and it depicted a harvest celebration in a North German farm house while also drawing inspiration from the Bible. Published across Germany in a number of hymnbooks, the majority of these cut down drastically on the original 17 verses with the publishers often deciding to start with the 3rd verse which when translated into English in 1862 by Jane Montgomery Campbell, gave us "We Plough the Fields and Scatter". Our version is not a strict translation from the original German but it has ensured retention of the hymn's original focus of thankfulness, of giving thanks to God for the harvest, and particularly in the third verse:

*"We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, and food;
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,
and what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts."*

A thankful heart, at all times and in all places is, I would venture, a pretty good barometer of the health of the human spirit.

John Park

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)
August	Ticket No. 90 David Jordon	Ticket No. 65 Gill Featonby	Ticket No. 158 Marie Vale
September	Ticket No. 79 Peter Coates	Ticket No. 91 Audrey Kerr	Ticket No. 15 Carol Robson (for Aidan)

Mike Elphick

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Wednesday 5 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 8 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(t)
Saturday 8 th	11.30am Possible Open Gardens/ Flower Festival meeting in V Hall	(c)
Sunday 9 th	9.30am Harvest Festival Service at St. Andrew's Bothal	(b)
	6pm Harvest Supper in Longhirst Village Hall	(e)
Friday 14 th	11am Home Communion at The Dairy, Longhirst	(f)
Sunday 16 th	10am Family Service at St. John's Longhirst	(b)
Tuesday 18 th	2pm Mother's Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 19 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 21 st	6pm Jumble Sale in the Village Hall	(e)
Sunday 23 rd	Village amble in Northumberland	(l)
Sunday 30 th	British summer time ends remember to put your clocks back 1 hour	

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 2 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 3 rd	7pm Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 4 th	Deadline for items for December/January Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Friday 11 th	11am Home Communion at The Dairy Longhirst	(f)
Saturday 12 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(t)
Saturday 12 th	7pm Foodies Evening with Anne Arter in the Village Hall	(e)
Sunday 13 th	10.55 Act of Remembrance at War Memorial in Longhirst Village	(b)
Tuesday 15 th	2pm Mother's Union meeting in St Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 16 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 27 th	2pm Advent Toy Service at St. John's Longhirst	(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 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery Friday 7th/21st October and 4th/18th November

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 3rd December - St John's Church Christmas Coffee Morning in Village Hall

Thursday 8th December , 7pm - Parish Association AGM in Village Hall

Friday 16th December - Afternoon Tea and Musical Entertainment with Cameron and Arran Kirk

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 : Revlleecleminson@gmail.com (j)

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

PCC Secretary - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.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)

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

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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)

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