

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## October / November 2017

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### LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW, OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND THE BIG QUESTION!



Thanks to everyone, including helpers, entrants, judges and visitors, who participated in this year's Village Show. It was a great success with lots of people coming to admire the exhibits and enjoy the home made teas and the popular auction at the end of the day.

We now have a Longhirst Village Facebook page with information about the Show, details of all the winners, many photos and a video from the day together with other Village news. You can have a look and 'like' the "Longhirst Village" facebook page using the link below [https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).

As well as the full list of results being placed on the Facebook page, they are displayed on the notice board in the Village Hall and an article in the Morpeth Herald on 14 September listed this year's well deserved trophy winners:-

Best stand in vegetable section	Allison Tordoff
Best stand in flower section	Jill Elphick
Best entry in cookery section	Gill Featonby
Best entry in photographic section	Peter McKenzie
Best entry in art and craft section	Sandy Egan-Fowler
Most points in flowers and vegetables	Bob Jackson
Most points in cookery, photographs & crafts	Myra Jackson
Best Junior 'bake'	Phoebe Cottiss
Best Junior 'make'	Phoebe Cottiss
Best Junior 'snap'	Daniel Hourigan
Alan Hagerty Memorial Trophies	Ethan Hourigan, Will Cottiss, Thomas Weerasooria

The big question is **should we hold future Village Shows on a Saturday or a Sunday?** Having always held the show on a Saturday, we moved it to Sunday two years ago in an effort to encourage more entries by giving people time on the Saturday to get their exhibits ready. However, the number of entries has stayed about the same but the number of people coming to the Show and the takings have fallen, so we are considering going back to holding the Show on Saturday. We'd love to hear your views and invite you to let the secretary, Carol Benbow (p), know which day you would prefer.

Finally, if you would like to get involved or have any ideas about how we could make the Show even better or encourage more people to enter next year, please let us know!

Carol Benbow

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September a number of residents from Micklewood expressed their concerns about issues within **Micklewood Park**. While the Parish Council is very sympathetic regarding these problems we have very little jurisdiction within a private estate. However, our County Councillor, David Towns said that he would ask for a meeting with senior County Council officials, especially from the Planning Department, to see if any solutions can be found.

Peter Coates reported the latest information on the installation of **fibre broadband** (see below).

The **co-option of two new members** did not go ahead as they had withdrawn for personal reasons. The PC members were asked to see if there were other residents who would be interested and if so to contact the Chair, Catherine Farrell, or the Clerk, Ian Thompson (a).

Most of the **potholes** in the Parish have been repaired and David Towns will check other sites that have been highlighted and make arrangements for proper repairs to be made.

This year's **audit documents** have been accepted and returned.

The **planning application** for No. 9 has been approved and the application for three houses at Longhirst Station is still to be decided.

The **Woodland Trust** is under new management and has now made arrangements for the grass to be cut by a local contractor. They asked if we would like a pond created. PC members decided that it would not be suitable, would be difficult to construct and could provide a danger to unaccompanied children. We have asked that they repair the three footpath gates.

A letter was received from the Open Gardens Working Group regarding the **floral displays within the Village**, suggesting that the income from another Open Gardens Weekend, or similar event, might go towards improving these. The PC support the idea of a review of the present arrangement and will ask the OG Group what they have in mind and what they would like us to do.

The **next meeting** will be on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm** in the Village Hall. All residents are encouraged to attend.

**IF ANYBODY IS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL PLEASE CONTACT MYSELF, IAN THOMPSON (a) OR ANY PARISH COUNCILLOR.**

Catherine Farrell

## PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

The latest news from iNorthumberland at County Hall is quite positive. They report that the contract with BT for the installation of fibre broadband for the Ashington numbers has now been signed and that the new cabinet has been assigned a number, something that apparently is a "major milestone". NCC will be funding the whole scheme and completion is currently expected to be early next year.

The Morpeth numbers at the south east corner of the Parish should also have their new cabinet installed early in 2018 and Broomhaugh and Ashtrees, to the north, in mid 2018. Please keep everything crossed and we will see what happens!

For further information please contact Peter Coates (I).

Longhirst Parish Broadband Working Party

## FROM THE EDITORIAL GROUP

We are delighted that a number of people have moved into the Parish over the summer months. We welcome you all and hope you will be very happy in your new homes. We look forward to meeting you soon, and please make contact with any of the people listed on the back page if you would like to know more about Village activities. Some have also moved away including Peter and Sue Nicol and Jo Clark and her family. We would like to thank them for delivering the Longhirst Leader for many years.

The Longhirst Leader is our free Parish Newsletter which goes to every household in the Parish either by e-mail or paper copy. **PLEASE HELP US** to ensure this important means of communication is reaching everyone in the best way possible by letting Jill Elphick (e) know of any changes or additions that need to be made to the distribution list. For the newsletter to be free we rely on as many people as possible receiving it by e-mail, but copies are printed for those who want them. Paper copies must be delivered and we need a couple of new distributors - one for the Middlesteads area and the other around Fawdon. Please can you help?

We hope you find the Leader useful and informative and would like new people to join the Editorial Group. It would only require an hour or two of your time every other month. If you think you may be willing to get involved please do not hesitate to discuss it with any member of the Editorial Group (see the back page).

## OPEN GARDENS AND CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND 2017

As our gardens 'go over' and the colours of autumn begin to develop we recall that wonderful Weekend at the beginning of July when the community worked together and we all enjoyed sharing the delights of our Village with our visitors. Keith Cochrane has compiled a DVD of the Weekend and put the photographs that were showing in the Village Hall on a memory stick. Just let me know if you would like to borrow either of these.

I have tidied up all the files about our Open Gardens Weekends held since 2005 and they make interesting reading, in particular the changes in the way we advertise the event with increased access to the internet and social media. If you would like to have a browse through the files, possibly with the thought of taking on the co-ordination of a similar event in the future, please ask.

Jill Elphick (e)

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS



At long last we have been able to lay the surface reinforcement mesh over the central section of the rear car park which means that we should no longer suffer the problem of cars getting stuck in the mud when manoeuvring during wet winter weather.

Sincere thanks are due to Richard Tordoff and his son James for their invaluable help with the laying and securing of the mesh which is now almost invisible as the grass has already grown through it.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mo Dewar as our new trustee representing the Garden Association and we are pleased to welcome Peter McKenzie back as the Music Society rep.

Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## OBITUARY

Nancy Thompson : 31<sup>st</sup> August 1913 - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017



It is with great sadness that we report the death of Nancy Thompson just short of her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Born in Wrekenton, Lowfell where her father was a Miners Union official, she was the youngest of 10 children and was taught by her eldest sister at school.

She and her sisters were camping at Cresswell when Nancy met Tom, who lived at Longhirst Station House. They were married in 1937 and moved into No. 8 The Village when their oldest son, Keith, was born. Tom was called up in the war and spent 5 years abroad. During this time Nancy and

Keith lived at the Station House with Tom's parents. Their second son, Ian, was born after the war and still lives in the Village. Keith later emigrated to New Zealand.

Nancy lived at No 8 for 80 years. She was active in the Church and always helped to organise or bake for everything that was going on in the Community. She was involved in the WI for over 60 years and the Ulgham Amateur Dramatic Society for over 30 years. She and Tom were among the original organisers for Age Concern Northumberland, they started an Over Sixties Group at Longhirst Colliery and were involved with the Day Centre Group at Pegswood Colliery.

Nancy left a note for her family. It said:-

*Death is nothing at all, it does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name, Mam or Gran or Nancy. Speak of me in an easy way which you always used. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together, smile and think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Life means all that it ever meant.*

*There is absolute and unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval somewhere very near, just round the corner. I love you. All is well.*

Nancy was a remarkable lady who still lived alone in her own house at the age of 103. She was frequently seen walking through the Village, she attended Church, went to the Village Luncheon Club, sent contributions to the Garden Fete, insisted on going to the Village Hall to vote on election day and still went to the Forge for Sunday Lunch with Ian and Val. She will be very sadly missed by her 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren (most of whom live in New Zealand) and all those who knew her.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOGS.

We have recently had the pleasure of caring for our family's dog while they have been away on holiday and are disgusted at the amount of dog fouling around our lovely Village and in particular on the paths in the Millennium Wood. All responsible dog owners should carry a few bags in their pockets and be prepared to 'pick up' after their dogs. There are bins in the Main Street, at the top of the bridle path or you just take the bag home with you and use your own bin. Please think of others when you exercise your dogs.

Thank you.

Grumpy Grandma and Grandad!

## HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND.

I am running a new business 'Home Instead' that aims to provide high-quality care for older people in Morpeth, Ponteland, Blyth, Ashington, Bedlington, Cramlington, Wideopen and the surrounding areas. Home Instead matches clients with carers based on shared interests, and ensures that clients always see the same person for a minimum of one hour.

We really want to focus on providing relationship based home care services, whether that be helping with housework, cooking a meal, or going for a walk. The Home Instead brand has been praised a lot, having won the Queen's Award last year, as well as several care awards. If you are interested in finding out more about the services Home Instead provide, or in becoming a CareGiver, email [guy.kirk@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:guy.kirk@homeinstead.co.uk), call 01670 338542 or go to [www.homeinstead.co.uk/southeastnorthumberland](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/southeastnorthumberland).

Guy Kirk

### VICAR'S LETTER



For most Protestant Christians it is almost an article of faith that when an angry German monk called Martin Luther nailed 95 propositions for the reform of the Church to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517, he set in motion a religious revolution that has divided Europe and the Church ever since. Martin Luther was a divisive character then and remains so today but may well be best remembered because the parents of Martin Luther King, the much more famous American civil rights leader of the twentieth century, named their son after him. However the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and his "Ninety Five Theses" will be celebrated, especially

among the Lutheran Churches, this month.

This prompted me to seek out the Lutheran Prayer Book to see if I could find another side to the angry and combative monk who relished an argument and took on the "powers that be" of his own day. I was not disappointed. Luther's comments on the Ten Commandments show a gentler, more pastoral man who offered a vision of godly living for everyone beyond the traditional, stark "*Thou shalt and Thou shalt not's*" and go something like this ...

"Love and trust in God above all things and call upon God's help in every time of need. By offering prayer, praise and the giving of thanks we make the right use of God's name. Hold the words of the bible as sacred, listen to them and read and learn them gladly. Hold your parents and those who watch over you in honour. Serve and love them. Deal honestly with those around you, help and support your neighbours in every need. By your words and deeds live disciplined lives and in marriage, love and honour each other. Protect and where possible help improve your neighbour's situation and livelihood. Speak honestly, guarding your neighbour's reputation against slander and in so far as you, can speak well of them. Help everything turn out for the best. Above all, learn to value and be content with what belongs to you."

Words of wisdom, I think.

John Park

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We warmly invite you all to join with us for our **Harvest Festival Service** on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am in St. John's Church, Longhirst. We will meet the day before to clean and decorate the Church from 9.30am. Your donations of non-perishable items for the Wansbeck Food Bank together with produce/flowers to decorate the Church and any help would be gratefully received. Our traditional **Harvest Supper** this year will be at 6pm in St. Margaret's Hall at Pegswood. For more details please contact Jill Elphick (e).

Our usual combined Morning Holy Communion and Evening services at St John's Longhirst, St Andrew's Bothal and St Margaret's Pegswood are as follows. On the fifth Sunday of the month we always have a combined benefice service and during the winter months the Evening service is held in the Rectory at Pegswood.

October 1<sup>st</sup> - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm at Bothal

October 8<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am at Bothal and 4pm at Longhirst

October 15<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am Harvest Festival at Longhirst and 4pm at Bothal

October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9.30am at Bothal and 4pm at Longhirst

October 29<sup>th</sup> - 10.15am at Pegswood and 4pm at Bothal

November 5<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm at Bothal

November 12<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am at Bothal

**10.55am at Longhirst War Memorial - Act of Remembrance**

November 19<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am at Longhirst and 4pm in the Rectory

November 26<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am at Bothal and 4pm in the Rectory

This year our **Advent Toy Service** will be a family service at St. John's in Longhirst on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am. 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.

We have a **JUMBLE SALE** planned for **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm** in the Village Hall. As usual we rely on you to donate all your unwanted items to enable us to set up a good display. Please continue to amaze us with the amount you produce and leave your contributions in the Village Hall from **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** or if you would like these collected contact Jill on 790764.

Once again we thank Carol Robson for hosting the Afternoon Tea at the end of August. This raised £400 for Church funds and a big thank you to all her helpers and supporters. The Pie and Pea supper in September raised £217, again for Church funds.

Jill Elphick (e)

## 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)
August	Ticket No. 152 <b>Marie Labus</b>	Ticket No. 170 <b>James Tordoff</b>	Ticket No. 2 <b>Mike Elphick for Rachel</b>
September	Ticket No. 228 <b>Andy Foreman</b>	Ticket No. 176 <b>Val Block</b>	Ticket No. 156 <b>David Chambers</b>

Mike Elphick

## TRADESMAN RECOMMENDATION

The Victorian floor tiles in St John's Church have recently been cleaned and resealed. We are delighted with the result and can thoroughly recommend Paul Athey the owner operator of AVS Cleans who did this work for us. Paul cleans carpets, upholstery, hard floors, concrete print, block paving and patios working in both domestic and commercial situations. Contact him on 07947 465498 for more information.

Jill Elphick

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OCTOBER

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(t)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Harvest Festival Service at St. John's Longhirst	(b)
	6pm Harvest Supper in St Margaret's Church Hall	(d)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Mothers Union meet at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Village Amble in Northumberland	(l)
Friday 27 <sup>st</sup>	6pm Jumble Sale in the Village Hall	(e)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	British summer time ends remember to put your clocks back 1 hour	

### NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for items for December/January Longhirst Leader e-mail to <a href="mailto:claire@petercoates.plus.com">claire@petercoates.plus.com</a></b>	<b>Editorial Group</b>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(t)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.55 Act of Remembrance at Longhirst War Memorial	(b)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2pm Mother's Union meeting in St Margaret's Hall, Pegswood	(g)

## REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 6
- 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 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm

Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery Friday 6<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> November

## FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - St John's Church Christmas Coffee Morning in Village Hall

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am - Advent Toy Service at St. John's

## 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)
- 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)
- 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** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)  
Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)
- Longhirst Amblers** - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: [pandc@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:pandc@petercoates.plus.com) (l)
- Garden Association** - Carol Benbow 790194 / e-mail : [carol\\_benbow@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_benbow@hotmail.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)
- Village Coffee Mornings** - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [jill.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:jill.elphick1@gmail.com) (e)
- 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)
- Village Facebook page** - [https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)
- Church Website** - [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

### Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

- 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)
- Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)
- Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, [dewarms@btinternet.com](mailto:dewarms@btinternet.com) (w)



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

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