

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## October / November 2020

### ARE WE GOING TO RUN AN OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND IN 2021?



People, both from within the Parish and elsewhere, are beginning to ask whether Longhirst is going to have an Open Gardens Weekend next year. Clearly, we cannot know whether we will still be faced with the coronavirus by June of next year or whether a vaccine will have rendered that problem a thing of the past. However, soundings among people who were involved last year, suggest that there is an appetite to undertake some initial planning, and if we find that we cannot run the Weekend in 2021, it could be postponed till 2022.

Jill McManus had offered to chair and co-ordinate the event and David and Audrey Jordon are again prepared to allow parking on the concrete standing between the Brocks and North East Grains. We will, of course, need much more in terms of the Gardens, the Church, Publicity, Website and Social Media, Refreshments, Parking and Traffic management, Stewards, Finance, Signage etc.

As we can't currently hold a public meeting it would be helpful to know if you might be interested in volunteering either as an organiser or as a helper on the day. Open Gardens can only happen if enough people are willing to share all the work that needs doing.

The proposal, therefore, is to ask you all to indicate your willingness to be involved with Open Gardens 2021 or 2022 either by completing the attached form and getting it to Mike Elphick (c) or completing the form online using the link in the email <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GB2PM27>.

In all cases, there are people who have experience of managing in previous years and are prepared to help anyone thinking of taking a lead role with advice and information. If you would like to discuss or get more information about what is involved, please feel free to ring Jill McManus on 791536 or Mike Elphick (c).

Mike Elphick

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Board of Trustees is delighted to report that the bid for funding from the Suez Community Landfill Trust was successful and the Longhirst Parish Association has been awarded just over £10,500 to install an insulated false ceiling in the Sports Hall, provide a hot water system serving both the kitchen and toilet sinks and to box in the new pipework in the kitchen. It is also intended to replace the lead linings of the two roof valleys between the original school building and the 1930's extension that forms the Sports Hall.

This work is planned to be undertaken towards the end of September and may continue into early October. When it is completed, it will allow every part of the Hall to be quickly heated to comfortable levels in all weathers.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held using Zoom on 3<sup>rd</sup> September County Councillor David Towns referred to the **County Council meeting** held on the previous day which resulted in a motion of no confidence in the then Leader of the Council, Peter Jackson. Cllr. Glen Sanderson is the new acting Leader and Cllr. Towns was looking forward to the County Council returning to stability and getting on with the business of delivering services. He had noted that the relevant Traffic Regulation Order is now in place and therefore the new speed limits in the Village are legal and operational. He was impressed with the **new Village 'gateway' signs** and he has received positive informal feedback from residents about them. The installation of the new flashing speed indicator signs should take place very shortly.

On behalf of Longhirst Hall residents Andy Robson reported that eight of the **new apartments** still had to be sold and from Micklewood Janet Quinn said she understood that a contractor has yet to be appointed to build the two **new dwellings on the north side of Dairy Lane** (see below). The installation of a new 'gateway' sign at The Colliery had been investigated and it was agreed that a sign similar to the new "Longhirst" ones would be too large in that location and too expensive. Alternatives solutions will be examined.

Peter Coates reported on a meeting he had held with Martin King, the Area Manager of NCC Highways. It seems that the County Council may no longer be willing to raise the level of the road at the **Ashington Road flooding site** and is currently waiting for Advance Northumberland, as land owner, to install drainage pipes under that section of carriageway. General concern about the lack of progress was expressed and Cllr. Towns agreed to speak to his colleagues in Advance Northumberland to ensure the matter is expedited.

North East Grains was successful in its planning application (NCC Planning Portal No.18/04533/FUL) to install a **500KW anaerobic digester** and a condition of the planning consent is that regular meetings should be held between NEG, NCC and the Parish Council. This was viewed as a positive step forward and the NEG application (20/01352/FUL) to install a **3.1MW ground source heat pump** was also welcomed.

The latest position with the planning application for 10 new bungalows in **Domino's Field** (19/00991/FUL) was discussed and it was agreed to send a further letter of objection confirming the Parish Council's view that it is green belt land, that it had never been part of the opencast site and that the development was not infill but constituted an extension of the Village boundary.

It was recognised that in the prevailing Covid-19 situation it is likely that Council meetings will continue to be on-line for the foreseeable future. Residents are encouraged to submit subjects for discussion in writing to the Clerk, Helyn Douglas (a), and/or to participate in or view the proceedings via Zoom.

The **next meeting** is to be held on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm.**

Peter Coates

### Stop Press

1. A notice on-site now advertises the 2 plots on Dairy Lane for sale with Sandersons, either as self- build for £345,000 or built for £795,000.
2. Regularly updated advice on the current Covid restrictions in the County is available from NCC at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Latest-information-and-advice-on-Coronavirus.aspx> .

**THE MONEY RAISED IN THE VILLAGE, THE NORTHEAST, THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE AND AROUND THE WORLD IN MEMORY OF JILL ELPHICK**

Online donations via the "Much Loved" website  
 58 donations amounting to:- £1,755.00p  
 Plus Gift Aid reclaim:- £298.75p  
 Total value of online donations:- £2,053.75p  
 Offline donations:- £360.00p  
 Grand total:- £2,413.75p



Distributed as follows:-  
 Money raised for McMillan Cancer Support:- £930.00p  
 Money raised for the Newcastle "Maggie's Centre":- £758.75p  
 Money raised for St. John's Parish Church, Longhirst:- £730.00p  
 Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Mike Elphick

**CHURCH NOTICE BOARD**



We hope to have an **Act of Remembrance at 10.55am on 8<sup>th</sup> November** at Longhirst War Memorial but this is provisional and will be dependent on whatever restrictions are in place at the time.

We are also hoping to hold our annual **Toy Service on Advent Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November** this year. This is when we collect carefully wrapped Christmas presents to send off to the Cedarwood Trust at North Shields for distribution to children and teenagers belonging to families who otherwise might provide very little for them. The presents need to be wrapped and simply write on the label Boy or Girl and the age for which the present would be most suitable. The limited numbers currently allowed to attend church services may prevent some people from participating and therefore some presents may not be delivered to church on the day. However, they can be dropped off at the Rectory in Pegswood in the week leading up to 1<sup>st</sup> December or if this is not possible I would call and collect them. My contact number is 510793 and address is Bothal Rectory, Longhirst Road, Pegswood, NE61 6XF.

October and November's services are:

Date	Holy Communion
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am at Longhirst
October 11 <sup>th</sup> (Harvest)	9.30am at Bothal
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am at Longhirst
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am at Bothal
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am at Longhirst
November 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>10.55am Act of Remembrance at Longhirst War Memorial (Provisional)</b>	9.30am at Bothal
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am at Longhirst
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am at Bothal
November 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>Advent Toy Service</b>	9.30am at Longhirst

9.30am Wednesday morning Communion services at St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood have now recommenced.

John Park

## VICAR'S LETTER



### Sponsored Indoor Rowing for Longhirst and Bothal Churches

Like many other organisations and businesses the finances of local parish churches have been much reduced during the pandemic and lock-down. Valuable sources of income and fund-raising opportunities upon which churches rely during the summer months, such as weddings, church fetes, coffee mornings and heritage open days have been lost. Expenditure however, for example on the upkeep of church buildings, insurance and the

costs of parish ministry continues.

To support our finances at St. John's, Longhirst and St. Andrew's, Bothal I propose to do a fundraiser - some sponsored indoor rowing. I have access to a high-spec rowing machine which has a small onboard computer measuring time, distance, stroke rate and (allegedly) calorie burn rate! So I want to attempt a 65 kilometre sponsored row to mark my 65th birthday which occurs towards the end of October this year. It takes me about 40 minutes to cover 10 kilometres at a steady pace of 26/27 strokes per minute and I propose to do the 65 kilometres in one day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Bothal Church. The day will be divided into 6 or 7 one hour long sessions, allowing roughly 20 minutes for rest and a drink between each 10 kilometre stretch with a slightly longer lunch break. A record will be kept of each session and upon completion, verified confirmation will be made available to all who have pledged to donate. Money raised will be divided equally between the two churches.

I hope you will feel able to support this and sponsor forms will be made available soon. Donations will be gratefully accepted in various forms:

Bank transfer: Bank: TSB Sort Code: 30-95-76 Account Number: 20140360

Cheque made out to John Park (please write "Rowing" on the back of a cheque)

or cash in an envelope marked "Rowing" delivered to

Bothal Rectory, Longhirst Road, Pegswood, Morpeth, NE61 6XF.

Donations can also be made on the Just Giving website. Search for John-Park-1 and you will see a photo of me on the rowing machine. This will direct you to my donation page.

Thank you.

John Park

## THE MILES OF PENNIES APPEAL

I am delighted to report that we have now collected 2 miles and 219 yards of pennies and raised £1,641 for the Village Hall and the Church. Role on the third mile!!

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR A HOUSE IN LONGHIRST

We are still looking for a property to buy in Longhirst. We have sold our house and are living in rented accommodation in Morpeth, so can go ahead without the complication of a chain. If anyone is considering selling we would love to hear from you.

Our contact details are: Tel: 01670 504281, Mob. 07831 404026

e-mail: [pippaions@btinternet.com](mailto:pippaions@btinternet.com)

Peter and Pippa Ions

### RED SQUIRREL CONSERVATION

Many Longhirst residents are actively involved in red conservation, feeding and encouraging native red squirrels to thrive in the Village and surrounding woodlands. A vital, although regrettable, part of red conservation is grey control. Many grey squirrels carry a virulent virus which is fatal to reds and is highly contagious. A programme of grey control through the use of humane traps is being undertaken in the Village. Traps are checked each day and any grey caught is swiftly, and humanely, despatched.

This work has been disrupted by the recent theft of traps. This is a crime and has been reported to the police, who will act accordingly.

While we understand the resistance to killing any animal that may have motivated these thefts I would emphasise that by allowing greys to move into Longhirst the deaths of any reds with whom they come into contact is almost certain.

Catherine Weightman

Morpeth and District Red Squirrels (s)

## 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. 58 <b>Claire Coates</b>	Ticket No. 196 <b>David Flemming for Kate</b>	Ticket No. 11 <b>Carol Robson</b>
September	Ticket No. 93 <b>Phil Hourigan for Ethan</b>	Ticket No. 166 <b>Diane Millmore</b>	Ticket No. 183 <b>Anne Carey</b>

Mike Elphick

**LONGHIRST - WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

One of the few benefits of the current situation is that people have had time to stop and look at all the wonderful wildlife around the Village. The attached photographs were shot in Micklewood between April and August by Keith Cochrane who's kindly agreed to share the images.

This duck produced 11 ducklings and starred on Look North!



This was followed by the resident pair of moorhens producing 5 chicks.



The resident roe deer produced a fawn - just one this year. She managed to rear three last year, obviously having a rest.



There's also a great variety of gardens birds, these are just a few.

A pair of buzzards set up home in the woods and reared a chick for the second year running. The youngster can still be heard calling.



Goldfinch



Male Bullfinch



Nuthatch



And a number of other birds including this fantastic barn owl and kestrel.



The pond also attracts herons, otters and in previous years there was a pair of kingfishers. We're also lucky to have red squirrels in the woods.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	British Summertime ends. Remember to put your clocks back	
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November

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6pm Parish Council meeting on-line	(a)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.55 am Act of Remembrance at Longhirst War Memorial (Provisional)	(b)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for items for the December/January Longhirst Leader</b> e-mail to <a href="mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com">clairecoates32@gmail.com</a>	Ed. Group
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Advent Toy Service at St. John's	(b)

Church services every Sunday morning as listed on page 3.

## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about the various activities and events mentioned in this Newsletter contact: -

**Parish Council Clerk** - Helyn Douglas 826803 / e-mail : [longhirstpc@gmail.com](mailto:longhirstpc@gmail.com) (a)

**Vicar** - Rev. John Park 510793 / e-mail : [johnp2910@gmx.co.uk](mailto:johnp2910@gmx.co.uk) (b)

**Churchwardens** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)

Heather Jackson 07756 690027/ e-mail : [siriusa1998@aol.com](mailto:siriusa1998@aol.com) (d)

**PCC Secretary** - Dorothy Launchbury 790491 / email: [launching1@outlook.com](mailto:launching1@outlook.com) (e)

**Mothers' Union** - Angela Mason 517872 / e-mail : [angela148@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela148@hotmail.co.uk) (g)

**Longhirst Parish Association** - Margaret Lediard 790268/ e-mail : [margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk) (t)

**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)

**Longhirst Village Show 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** - Helen McCabe 790494 / e-mail : [mccabe\\_paul1@sky.com](mailto:mccabe_paul1@sky.com) (n)

**Village Pub Nights** - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : [rtordoffs@gmail.com](mailto:rtordoffs@gmail.com) (h)

**Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** - Bill Dryden 817862. / email : [drydenx2@btinternet.com](mailto:drydenx2@btinternet.com) (m)

**Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings** - MADRS 07570 897979 / [enquiries@madredsquirrels.com](mailto:enquiries@madredsquirrels.com) (s)

**Village Website** - [www.longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://www.longhirstvillage.co.uk) - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail : [chrismarr@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismarr@btinternet.com) (u)

**Village Facebook page** - [https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel) (v)

**Church Website** - [www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

### Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 791088, [clairecoates32@gmail.com](mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com) (k)

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, [dewarms@btinternet.com](mailto:dewarms@btinternet.com) (w)

Janet Quinn - 38 Micklewood Close : 790630, [quinnjanet@sky.com](mailto:quinnjanet@sky.com) (q)