

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## April / May 2023

### CELEBRATION OF KING CHARLES' CORONATION



Following a residents' meeting we are hoping to hold a **CORONATION BIG LUNCH** in the Village Hall at **12 noon on Sunday 7 May** to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Two long tables will be laid out in the Hall and all residents, families and friends are invited to **bring along a dish or dishes of their choice for all to share** in what will hopefully be a veritable feast. Please also **bring your own crockery, cutlery, glasses and drink(s)**.

We hope this will be an enjoyable opportunity for residents, old and new, to meet up and perhaps forge new friendships. If anyone is willing to provide some form of entertainment, please contact me.

We need to set up the Hall so if you plan to come please e-mail me on [biglunch@petercoates.plus.com](mailto:biglunch@petercoates.plus.com) or phone 791088 and say how many will be in your party by **Friday 14 April**.

One of the themes for the Coronation is **Volunteering**. The Litter Pickers are certainly already doing more than their share to help and a number of individuals (such as Lawrence Carey and his flower displays around the war memorial) greatly add to the appearance of our surroundings.

We also need a small team of sign cleaners to keep the mould off our local road signs. You will not be asked to give more than one hour a year for this – please contact me if you are willing to help.

Peter Coates (k)

### SPRING FAIR

**Saturday 1 April 10.30am – 2.30pm Longhirst Village Hall**

Stalls including handmade cards, honey, beeswax candles,  
pottery, books, produce and plants.

Tombola

Homemade refreshments including Bacon Butties, Soup, Cakes etc.

Admission £1 (children 50p) to include tea / coffee

Everyone Welcome

All proceeds in aid of St. John's Church

### CAN YOU HELP NEWCOMERS RECEIVE THE LEADER?

We would like everyone living in Longhirst to receive a copy of the Leader if they wish. It is difficult to ensure we have the details of all newcomers, so if you know of someone who has recently moved into the area, please let me know so that I can give them a 'Welcome Booklet' and ask if they would like to be added to the circulation list.

Claire Coates (k)

## LITTER PICKERS 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The Longhirst Litter Pickers are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year and Chris Marr, as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, hosted a presentation at the March Coffee Morning to mark the event. Helen McCabe, in addition to her usual Coffee Morning hosting duties, baked a lovely chocolate cake which was much appreciated.

The Pickers have turned out every month in almost all weathers and estimate they have collected over 2000 bags of loose rubbish and many larger items including a kitchen sink! They were featured on the front page of the Morpeth Herald published on 23 March. We sincerely thank Chris Lediard and his team for all their dedicated hard work which makes a massive improvement to the appearance of the local area.

New volunteers are always welcome and should contact Chris Lediard (r) for further details.

Peter Coates (k)

Carol Robson invites you to a **WILDLIFE WATCH DAY** in aid of St. John's Church at **ROSE COTTAGE, ULGHAM LANE NE61 3NQ** on **SATURDAY 29 APRIL**



10.00am - 12.00noon    Coffee/tea and scones  
2.00pm - 4.00pm        Tea/coffee and cake



Raffle and Bottle Tombola  
£5 per session, includes refreshment

Come with your friends to enjoy a peaceful haven and watch the wildlife.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



### Longhirst Parish Council

The last meeting was held on 2 March.

A resident from **Station Cottages** raised the continuing issue of the building that has been erected without planning permission and has failed several appeals. He is concerned at the length of time the removal is taking. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this with NCC.

A resident from **Longhirst Hall** asked about the erection of a direction sign at the entrance to Longhirst Hall. They were advised that this could not be funded by either the Parish Council or the County Council and she should consult residents of Longhirst Hall, Micklewood and the three sports clubs to discuss wording and funding.

The directors and residents of the Longhirst Hall Estate have met and agreed to the installation of car electric charging points and a full tree survey.

The shares in **Micklewood Estate** have been transferred to the property owners, 4 new directors have been appointed and the first meeting between residents and directors was planned for 15 March.

David Feige (County Ecologist NCC) attended the meeting to give a presentation on plans for **Potland Park** (the former Potland Opencast site). The original plan was to return the site of the surface coal mine to arable land and to reinstate footpaths and bridleways. However due to recent changes in legislation the Government is looking to offset commercial developments with areas of 'Biodiversity Net Gain'. Potland Burn has been identified as a suitable site to offset the development proposed by British Volt (or its successor company). The former arable land will now become a more nature friendly habitat and new public rights of way will still be created. Plans will focus on the creation of clusters of ponds and seasonal scrapes, species rich grassland and scrub and managed grazing. Local communities will be encouraged to become involved.

County Councillor David Towns reported that there has been an increase in the number of incidents of **fly tipping complaints** recently and these should be reported to

<https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=587> (there is also a link on the Parish Council website).

He also outlined the proposals to create a **new County Council ward for Longhirst** which excludes Pegswood but includes Ulgham, Hebron and Fairmoor. In addition, Longhirst may well be transferred to the **new Parliamentary Constituency of North Northumberland** including Morpeth and Berwick.

**Missing road sign near St. John's Church** - this has not yet been replaced by NCC and there has been no update as to when the work will be done. The Clerk will chase this and the removal of the three unused signposts opposite Longhirst Hall.

The **Longhirst Village Show Association** has been disbanded and passed the remaining funds of £750 to assist the Parish Association to purchase a **standby generator for the Village Hall**. The Parish Council agreed to match this with a further donation of £750.

**Longhirst Wildlife Community Charity Trust** - the Trust has held its first public meeting, a talk by Peter Mathewson of Clark's Bog which attracted an audience of 45 residents.

It was agreed that the **oak tree for the Queens Platinum Jubilee** should be planted by Mike Elphick in recognition of the enormous contribution that he and his late wife Jill have made to Longhirst over many years.

**The Longhirst Litter Pickers** are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year and plans for a formal presentation were discussed.

**Parish Logo** - the new logo is an oak tree (see above) designed by a local graphic artist. The intention is that it can now be used by various Parish organisations.



**EV Charging points** - after consideration the Church car park was felt to be more accessible than the Village Hall and the relevant paperwork has been submitted to the County Council for that location to be assessed.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.** The Annual General Meetings take place at the Village Hall, and start at **7pm** on **Thursday 4 May**. All residents are invited to attend and raise any issues of local concern.

Janet Quinn (q)

## **WHORRAL BANK WASTE RECOVERY CENTRE TO CHANGE OPENING TIMES**

Whorral Bank Waste Recovery Centre, currently open seven days a week, will be closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from late spring or early summer as part of NCC budget cuts.

Bebside and North Seaton sites will continue to open every day.

## **TREE PLANTING FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**



An English oak tree has been planted in the Millennium (Paddock) Wood to celebrate the Queen's Green Canopy as part of the Platinum Jubilee. Residents joined Mike Elpick who was invited to plant the tree in recognition of everything he and his late wife Jill have done (and he continues to do) in so many aspects and activities of Parish life. Their contribution to the community over the years has been outstanding.

Peter Coates (k)

## **VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS**



The next Pub Nights are on **Friday 21 April** and **Friday 19 May**. We welcome everyone to Longhirst Village Hall from 7.30pm.

Allison (h), Richard, Kathleen, Susan and Phil



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Reading Room, which has been back in operation for the past two months, now has new curtains and a temporary cover for the electrical switchgear. This will be completed once the additional fuse box for the new ventilation system is installed. We continue to have a few problems with the operation of the new fan radiator in the Reading Room and these will be addressed by a reconfiguration of the pipework around the boiler. Both of these will be included in the work we intend to undertake during the month of August.

The new gate by the bus stop is being built and will be installed within the next few weeks.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW

It is with some sadness that a decision has been made to no longer hold an annual Longhirst Village Show, where adults in the Parish would compete in classes for Vegetables, Flowers, Cookery, Photographs and Arts & Crafts and juniors for Bake, Make, Snap and Grow. Other parts of the Show which people once enjoyed were the raffle, tombola and, of course, the teas.

The Show was first established in 1915 and certainly saw some fierce but friendly competition in the various classes for over 100 years; each Show ending with the (sometimes hilarious) auction of produce. However, the number of entries into those classes has steadily declined in recent years.

In Spring last year an article was included in the Longhirst Leader inviting views and ideas from those living in the Parish before a final decision was made on the future of the Village Show. Unfortunately there was no response to that article. Therefore, at an Annual General Meeting of the Longhirst Village Show Association on 7 February, a decision was made to disband the Show altogether. Those who still hold trophies in the adult classes have been contacted so that the trophies can be returned to the Village Hall and kept as an historical record.

The remaining funds, totalling £751.06, have been donated to the Longhirst Parish Association as a contribution towards the purchase of a generator that will enable the Village Hall to stay open in the event of extended power cuts.

Very sincere thanks must go to all those who have given their time over the years to help run every aspect of the Longhirst Village Show - manning the door, managing the raffle, the tombola, the teas, the auction, the trophies, the setting up and clearing of the Village Hall, producing the show schedule and entry forms, keeping the accounts, managing the publicity, organising the judges, attending meetings etc. Particular respect should be paid to those who kept the Show going through two world wars.

Without the involvement and participation of our small community, the Village Show would not have flourished for as long as it did and it is hoped that other events will continue to thrive and develop to retain that sense of community in our little Village.

Carol Benbow (p)

## RUTH HALLOWELL - 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

Many of you will remember Ruth Hallowell who moved to Longhirst in the early 80's and is now living in Foxton Court Care Home. We congratulate her on recently celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with her son John and daughter Judith.

## CPR AND DEFIBRILLATION



There are an estimated 100,000 defibrillators across the UK and one is sited in the bus stop outside the Village Hall. If someone has a cardiac arrest it is essential that they receive immediate emergency care so it is important that we all know what to do.

The link below is to a 15 minute video training course on CPR and defibrillation, produced by the British Heart Foundation. This may act as a useful introduction or as a reminder of what to do.

Last year Richard Tordoff ran a number of short courses in the Village Hall which were excellent. If you are interested in attending such a course please contact Richard (h).

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=45b7e4ffbe2689b5JmltdHM9MTY3ODMyMDAwMCZpZ3VpZD0yZjIwMWFmMS04MjYxLTZjYzUtMTY0ZS0wODk5ODM1OTZkMGMmaW5zaWQ9NTE3Nw&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=2f201af1-8261-6cc5-164e-089983596d0c&psq=reviver+app&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYmhmLm9yZy51ay9yZXZpdnI&ntb=1>

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



The **Spring Fair** is on **Saturday 1 April** in the Village Hall (see page 1 for details) and **Carol Robson's Wildlife Watch Day** is on **Saturday 29 April** (see page 2). Proceeds from both these events will go to St. John's Church.

April and May's Sunday services are:-

Date	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
2 April Palm Sunday	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood
7 April Good Friday	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	
9 April	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	No Evening Service
16 April	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood
23 April	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood
30 April	10.15am St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood	4.00pm St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood
7 May	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
14 May	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
21 May	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
28 May	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst

Every Wednesday morning at 9.30am there is Holy Communion in St. Margaret's Hall in Pegswood.

John Park (b)



## VICAR'S LETTER



I was fascinated to learn that according to a study on our economy, Easter is fast becoming the new Christmas. It would appear that more and more of us are now sending Easter cards and presents to one another than ever before, yet all the while struggling like never before with the traditional Easter. Thus, while our society finds it harder to cope with a resurrected Christ, it appears to have less and less difficulty in conferring divine status on an over-sized rabbit running around with eggs in a basket. Whatever next?

Well, next was, and maybe still is, a plan to fix the date of Easter. As you may know, unlike Christmas, Easter is an inconveniently movable feast. The proposed change does I'm sure have something to do with making easier the planning of the Easter holidays but I suspect the real driving force is the perceived positive impact that a fixed Easter might have on sales and consumer spending thereby making this sacred time an even more useful cog in the economic machine. Is this really the best way to go? It seems to me to be reinforcing the tendency to measure our worth according to convenience or according to our capacity for production or consumption.

What really connects Christmas and Easter of course is fulfilment. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus as the light who is coming into the world and at Easter we celebrate him as the light that could not be extinguished by the darkness of death and destruction. On that first Easter morning his friends expected to find him dead in the tomb exactly where he had been placed on Good Friday, the latest victim of the powers that be, or, if you know the story, as a commodity conveniently traded in for the life of a nationalist freedom fighter (or terrorist depending on your point of view). In this and in other ways the Easter story does not deny the darkness, the reality that all is not well with our world, but it does surprise us with the assertion that there is more to life than death, and more to death than destruction.

Jesus once told those who came to him "even the hairs on your head are numbered", his way of saying that they were of infinite and eternal value and precious in the "divine economy". That is why on that first Easter Day, against all the odds, he met the bewildered, grieving, faltering disciples in their darkness, exactly where they were, and they were surprised to find that there was a future beyond their disillusion, failure and wildest imaginings. That is also why, in the light of Easter, St. John could include in his Christmas Gospel, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." Now that is Christian hope.

John Park (b)

## 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)
February	Ticket No. 165 David Squires	Ticket No. 15 Carol Robson <i>for Aiden</i>	Ticket No. 56 Claire Coates
March	Ticket No. 91 Carol Benbow	Ticket No. 142 Craig Penfold <i>for Gabriella</i>	Ticket No. 29 Anne Errington

Mike Elphick (c)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

5	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
8	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n) (r)
11	Tuesday	Late food bin collection	
14	Friday	Deadline for notifying attendance at the Big Coronation Lunch (see page1) Late black bin collection	(k)
19	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
21	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
28	Friday	9.45am Mobile Library in the Village	
29	Saturday	10-12, 2-4pm Wildlife Watch Day (see page 2)	(f)

### MAY

2	Tuesday	Late food bin collection	
3	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
4	Thursday	7pm Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
5	Friday	Late blue bin collection	
7	Sunday	12noon Big Coronation Lunch in the Village Hall	(k)
9	Tuesday	Late food bin collection	
12	Friday	<b>Deadline for April / May Longhirst Leader</b> e-mail to <a href="mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com">clairecoates32@gmail.com</a>	Ed. Group
		Late black bin collection	
13	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n) (r)
17	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
19	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
26	Friday	9.45am Mobile Library in the Village	
30	Tuesday	Late food bin collection	

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 6 (b)
- Tai Chi in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 9.30am (o)
- The Fish Van stops at the War Memorial every Friday between 8.30 and 9.00am
- Mobile Post Office in De Walden Terrace, Pegswood every Thursday from 11.45am – 12.45pm



## 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)**

**County Councillor** – David Towns 07985 012012 / e-mail : [david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk) **(g)**

**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 : [sirusa1998@aol.com](mailto:sirusa1998@aol.com) **(d)**

**PCC Secretary** – **(e)**

**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)**

**Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust**- Kim Woolhead 07749 811937 / e-mail : [kim.woolhead@gmail.com](mailto:kim.woolhead@gmail.com) **(y)**

**Lunch Club** – Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : [barnacre@btinternet.com](mailto:barnacre@btinternet.com) **(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)**

**Tai Chi** - Margaret Lovering - 794927 or 07814494337/ e-mail: [margaretlovering@gmail.com](mailto:margaretlovering@gmail.com) **(o)**

**Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room bookings** – Mary Climson 07727 198108 / [maryclimson6@gmail.com](mailto:maryclimson6@gmail.com) **(j)**

**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)**

**Longhirst Parish Council Website** - <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst> **(x)**

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

### **Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:**

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