

Longhirst Leader

December 2024 & January 2025

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

We warmly invite you to join us at our Seasonal Events

Christmas Coffee Morning Longhirst Village Hall

Saturday 14 December 10.30am

Entrance £3 including drinks and a mince pie. Bacon butties £3.50.

Deluxe Christmas Hamper raffle, cake stall, bric-a-brac stall and Bottle Tombola

Everyone welcome.

Door-to-door Carol Singing around Longhirst

Tuesday 17 December will be touring the village.

Thursday 19 December will visit Micklewood, Longhirst Hall and other areas.

Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Please come to help us sing, or join in when we come knocking on your door.

Donations go to the Air Ambulance.

Christmas Pub Night

Friday 20 December from 7.30pm

We are looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces at the Christmas Pub Night for our last pub night of 2024

Richard & Allison Tordoff

Christmas Eve Church Services

Tuesday 24 December

6pm Christmas Eve Carol Service with choir at St John's Church

11.30pm Midnight Communion Service at St John's Church

Everyone welcome

Longhirst News

REMEMBERING CAROL ROBSON

compiled by Linda Mowbray

On Sunday 24 November, friends and family came together in St John's Church to celebrate the life of Carol Robson who had played such a big part in the Longhirst community. The service was taken by our former curate, Lee Cleminson, now vicar of Percy Main.



Carol was born in North Shields, second child to Glen and Flo and younger sister to Michael. She had a happy childhood, especially enjoying family outings on bicycles, Carol riding on the back of a tandem. As a family they always had dogs and cats and Carol continued this love of animals throughout her life.

During the war she and the family lived in a wooden shack next to where Rose Cottage is now and she attended school in Longhirst. Later they camped in the garden during the summer.

After leaving school in North Shields, she worked in a factory on the quayside before going to university in Leeds to train as a social worker.

Having been a Girl Guide in her youth Carol went on to be a Guider and went abroad several times with her Guide friends.

When she retired she knocked down the wooden shack in the garden of Rose Cottage and lived for several years in a porta-cabin until she eventually had her bungalow built.

She dedicated her life to her family, friends, pets, wildlife, village community and the church. She was a member of the Village Hall Committee, the church PCC, the Longhirst Leader editorial group and the Open Gardens organising group. She was a regular visitor to the elderly and housebound and also was involved in the Association for the Deaf. Carol's mother, Flo, lived to a grand old age and spent her final years between North Shields and Longhirst.

Carol was a founder member of Longhirst's children's activity club and especially enjoyed cooking with the children. Since the inception of the Wednesday luncheon club, she was famous for producing many varied and delicious meals.

Carol looked forward to her annual holidays in the wilds of Scotland with her friends and inevitably with her dogs. Until her illness struck, she was remarkably fit, walking Max, her dog, every morning in the dunes and on the beach at Druridge Bay.

Carol will be greatly and sadly missed.

Carol Margaret Robson 10th December 1938 – 6th October 2024

WELCOME TO LONGHIRST...

A warm welcome also goes out to Liz and Simon Davidson who recently moved into the Old Farmhouse at Broomhaugh, to Hazel and Jonny Ponton and family who have moved in at the Old School House, and our other new residents who have recently moved in at Micklewood.

We hope you all settle in to your new homes and enjoy living in Longhirst.

... **AND FAREWELL** from Peter and Claire Coates

We will miss living in Longhirst very much but have every intention of returning for various functions on a regular basis. We hope Liz and Simon are as happy in the Old Farmhouse as we have been for the past 35 years.

PETER COATES STEPS DOWN AS CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

Chris Marr

Having recently moved from Broomhaugh to Morpeth, Peter has stepped down as Chair of Longhirst Parish Council after many years of service. He was a parish councillor initially, working with several Chairs and Clerks on the Council before taking on the role of Chair himself. Under his leadership the council has changed significantly, moving to a new, more transparent model which has embraced technology both in the way meetings now run and ensuring that residents are informed of the council's activity via the village and parish council websites. At the beginning of his tenure, we were still posting Parish Council news on village notice boards!

Peter has been a great advocate for the parish and its residents, and his determined approach has ensured that progress has been made on many issues of concern over the years. He has navigated some difficult challenges and has always stressed the importance of continued community involvement in shaping the future of the parish.

There are key skills that a good chairman needs, and Peter has these. He is dedicated and has been very hard working. Outside of the meetings themselves, he has spent a lot of his own time meeting people, exploring their areas of concern, and negotiating on their behalf. He has spent years building relationships with different groups to help facilitate new developments in the area and so much of this important work is key to what happens in the parish.

Both he, and Claire have done so much to help develop and support the village and its surrounding areas. The Longhirst Leader is such an important part of the local community, and he has ensured that this is another way to help communicate ideas and explore local issues that impact directly on the work of the council.

I want to thank him personally and on behalf of the Council for all that he has done over those years. He will be a hard act to follow and a great loss to the local community.

We wish him well in this next phase of his life. Thank you, Peter

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Macmillan coffee mornings were held in both Longhirst Village and Longhirst Colliery. Longhirst Village raised £313 and Longhirst Colliery raised £200.

The **Pie, Peas and Beetle** evening raised £220 for St John's Church.

Congratulations to all the organisers and thanks to everyone who came along to these events and helped to make them a success.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE TOY SERVICE

Mike Elphick

On Sunday afternoon the 1st of December 2024, members of Longhirst's community, together with the uniformed organisations based in Pegswood once again celebrated the beginning of Advent and, as in so many past years, donated the most amazing number of Christmas gifts for the Cedarwood Centre in North Shields to distribute children and families who would otherwise be unable to provide Christmas presents for their children.

On behalf of St. John's Church, the Cedarwood Centre North Shields and the people of the Meadow Well estate, thank you all!

Linda Mowbray would also like to thank everyone who donated selection boxes for children in Lee Cleminson's parish in North Shields. A grand total of 65 were collected.

LONGHIRST WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY TRUST (LWCT)

Pauline Gilbertson

Now in its second full year, LWCT offers a series of local wildlife walks and talks which we hope will appeal to a wide age range.

Our first event of 2025 is a talk about BEAVERS IN NORTHUMBERLAND by Wild Intrigue, the company responsible for the recently re-introduced Beavers on the Wallington National Trust estate. The talk will be held at Longhirst Village Hall on Saturday 8 February 2025, straight after the monthly Coffee Morning. Come along and learn all about these iconic mammals and their anticipated impact on the countryside. Cost: £3 per person (under 18s free).

Contact paulinegilbertson@gmail.com for further information or to secure a place.

Please also look out for the LWCT Newsletter which is issued three times a year and which includes articles, photos and tips about wildlife as well as information on our future events. It is sent out as a supplement of the Longhirst Leader, but if you missed previous editions you can find them all on the LWCT page of the Village Website.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Barry Flux, Clerk to Longhirst Parish Council

At the most recent meeting of Longhirst Parish Council on Thursday 7 November many residents raised concerns about speeding within the village. As a result of the points raised, Longhirst Parish Council has written to Northumberland County Council, outlining concerns and inviting a representative of the Highways Department to attend a future meeting.

Further to this, initial discussion about next year's Parish Precept* was made. We would invite residents to let us know what your thoughts are on this matter, including any ideas on what you would like funding in Longhirst. The budget for 2025 / 2026 financial year will be set at the January meeting. Please email longhirstpc@gmail.com with your views.

Please note the change of date of the next meeting of Longhirst Parish Council which is now on 9 January 2025 at 7pm in Longhirst Village Hall.

**The Parish Precept is the amount from your Council Tax that goes to fund Parish Council works.*

DECEMBER DIARY

14	Saturday	10.30am-12noon	Christmas Coffee Morning & Fayre In the Village Hall
15	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
17	Tuesday	6.30pm	Meet at Village Hall for Carol Singing around the Village
18	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
19	Thursday	6.30pm	Meet at Village Hall for Carol Singing in other areas
20	Friday	7.30pm	Pub Night in the Village Hall
22	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
24	Tuesday	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service at St John's Longhirst
24	Tuesday	11.30pm	Midnight Communion service at St John's, Longhirst
28	Saturday		Late BLUE recycling bin collection
29	Sunday	10.15am	Holy Communion at St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood

JANUARY DIARY

2	Thursday	7pm	Parish Council in the Village Hall
3	Friday		Late BLACK rubbish bin collection
5	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
11	Saturday	10am 10.30am – 12noon	Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall Coffee Morning in the Village Hall
12	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
15	Wednesday	11.45	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
17	Friday		Longhirst Leader deadline for Feb/Mar issue
19	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
24	Friday		Late BLUE recycling bin collection
29	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal

LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pilates	Fridays	9.30-10.30am	charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com
Sewing Group	First & Third Tuesdays	10am-2pm	helenpotts65@gmail.com
U3A	Check Village website for information		www.longhirstvillage.co.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library service is acquiring a new vehicle in January and changes to the routes are being discussed. New details are unlikely to be released until the middle of January. As and when we know more, we'll let you know.

HUNDRED CLUB WINNERS

Month	1 st Prize (£60)	2 nd Prize (£40)	3 rd Prize (£20)
October	Ticket No. 176 Helen McCabe	Ticket No. 111 Richard Tordoff	Ticket No. 138 Pauline Gilbertson
November	Ticket No. 165 Ian Loudon	Ticket No. 210 Janet Millar	Ticket No. 82 Phil Hourigan for Ethan

Contacts

Parish Council Clerk	Barry Flux		longhirstpc@gmail.com
Parish Council website	https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst		
County Councillor	David Towns	07985 012012	david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk
Churchwarden	Heather Jackson	07756 690027	siriusa1998@aol.com
Church website	https://longhirstchurch.chessck.co.uk/		
Parochial Church Council Secretary	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Longhirst Parish Association	Janet Quinn	01670 790630	quinnjanet@sky.com
Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust	Kim Woolhead	07749 811937	kim.woolhead@gmail.com
Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room Bookings	Mary Climson	07727 198108	maryclimson67@gmail.com
Longhirst Village Hall Bookings	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Lunch Club	Linda Rudd	01670 790116	barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk
Litter Picking	Chris Lediard	01670 790268	chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk
Coffee Mornings	Helen McCabe	01670 790494	mccabe_paul1@sky.com
Pub Nights	Allison and Richard Tordoff	01670 790364	rtordoffs@gmail.com
Longhirst Hundred Club	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Village Website	Chris Marr	01670 790196	chrismarr@btinternet.com www.longhirstvillage.co.uk
Longhirst Leader	Jill McManus	07837 525634	longhirstleader@gmail.com
	Mo Dewar	01670 791149	dewarms@btinternet.com
	Janet Quinn	01670 790630	quinnjanet@sky.com
	Kim Woolhead	07749 811937	kim.woolhead@gmail.com