
LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2017

BROTH AND BEETLE DRIVE

A new twist to our popular beetle drive evenings - on Friday 17th February we invite you to join us for a Broth and Beetle evening in the Village Hall. A warming broth together with stottie will be served at 7pm, followed by tea and cake. Then the usual competitive Beetle Drive takes over, with super prizes for both winners and losers! The cost is £5 each and please let Carol Robson (x) know by Saturday 11th February if you would like to come.

OPEN GARDENS AND CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL SATURDAY 1ST AND SUNDAY 2ND JULY



We're off - with the finish line just five months away! We are delighted to welcome some old stalwarts and a few new faces to the working group organising our big Weekend. We met in January and have begun to set things in motion but know that as the time goes on we will need lots of help in various ways over the actual Weekend. So please put the dates in your diary NOW and think what you might like to do - directing traffic, selling tickets, serving refreshments, flower arranging, stewarding in the Church - so many possibilities, but it is great fun and the whole Weekend a wonderful experience. There are a number of key areas for this event each led by a member of the working group. If you don't already know the following people you soon will - they all need volunteers!

Open Gardens - **Linda Mowbray** (791627)

Flower Festival - **Dorothy Launchbury** (790491) and **Deirdre Gilchrist** (790591)

Refreshments - **Carol Robson** (077737 38442)

Traffic management, stewarding and selling tickets - **Claire and Peter Coates** (791088)

Signage - **Mike Elphick** (790764)

Publicity - Still a gap but **Jill McManus** is setting up a web site which is great!

Finance - **Keith Launchbury** (790491)

For the next five months our **Village Coffee Morning**, on the second Saturday of each month, will be a focus for information about the Open Gardens Weekend. So if you have any ideas, good contacts or you would like to offer your help just call in to the Village Hall between 10.15am and 12noon or pick up the phone and any of the above people would love to hear from you.

I am very happy to co-ordinate the whole event, but this will be my swan song! If anyone feels they would like to work with me this year with a view to having a go next time, just let me know. Thank you all in advance for your help and support and here's to another successful Open Gardens Weekend.

Jill Elphick (790764)

MEETING WITH NCC PLANNERS ABOUT LONGHIRST HALL



The Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting in December which was well attended by residents, councillors and two senior officers from NCC's Planning Department (Mark Ketley, Planning Manager and Joe Nugent, Senior Planning Officer). The officers were left in no doubt about the level of concern over the scale of developments that NCC were approving in the grounds of Longhirst Hall (a conservation area) and certain activities such as the unauthorised felling of mature trees. (NCC had taken enforcement action over the trees once residents had reported the matter).

Residents of Micklewood are experiencing a variety of problems, in particular the closure of the gate behind the Hall which is causing serious access problems through to the Village. The officers undertook to examine the situation and take remedial action as a matter of urgency.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met on 5th January.

Broadband - see the Working Party report on page 3.

Bob Jackson raised the issue of the **track at the Colliery** which is still in need of repair. The Clerk said that the farmer concerned had been in touch with him and promised to do the work next week. Bob Jackson has also been in touch with the Highways Department about rerouting **grain vehicles** next season. As NCC would not spend any money to help solve this problem LPC decided to see if there is any improvement when the new Morpeth Northern Bypass is open. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to NCC pointing out their safety concerns regarding the numbers and size of the vehicles using such narrow roads.

Parish Maintenance - Richard Tordoff has been contacting other PCs about the costs involved. Contracts need to be completed before the growing season starts.

Following the meeting about **Longhirst Hall** (see above) it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Planning Department and find out what progress has been made on the re-opening of the gateway through to the Village.

Planning applications - An application has been received from Mr. Jordon at the Brocks to convert existing outbuildings into a residence for seasonal farm workers. No objections were raised. The golf club have resubmitted an application to site 150 chalet homes on the southern edge of the golf course. LPC have submitted a reply including concerns and observations.

The rubbish dumped $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Village on the bridle path has been cleared. NCC's footpaths unit has re-laid a section of the bridle path.

It was agreed that the litter picking group would be supported by LPC in purchasing safety equipment (road warning signs).

The next meeting is on **Thursday 2nd March** at 7pm in the Village Hall. This is the last meeting before the A.G.M. All residents are invited to attend.

Catherine Farrell

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

On 1st March 2015 around 70 residents gathered at the War Memorial to protest about the very poor broadband internet service available in Longhirst. At the time we were told that it was unlikely that fibre broadband could be installed in the foreseeable future. Just under two years later we are delighted that a high speed fibre broadband network is now accessible to residents with Ulgham (790/791/794) numbers in the Village itself. To obtain a higher speed broadband please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Linton numbers already have fibre to their cabinet, we have been promised fibre broadband for Ashington numbers within 12 to 18 months and a new fibre cabinet for Morpeth numbers within the same timescale. At a meeting shortly before Christmas residents at The Colliery and Old Moor decided not to continue with a proposed wireless broadband scheme and to wait for the fibre upgrade. This leaves the residents at Broomhaugh and Ashtrees eagerly awaiting developments on a possible fibre scheme for their area of the Parish. We are all grateful to iNorthumberland at County Hall for the improvements that have been achieved so far.

For more information please consult the iNorthumberland website or contact Peter Coates (I).

The Parish Broadband Working Party

MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

There has been more movement in Micklewood. Margaret and Allan sold No.38 to buy a house in Cresswell and Janet and her collie Jess arrived to take up residence in the bungalow beside the lake. No.30 was vacated by Rosemary when she bought a new house in Amble but quickly filled by Maria and David and their two Goldendoodles, Basil and Sybil. Everyone is happy with their respective moves.

A big thank you to the Carol singers who appeared on December 16th. It was a lovely way to begin the festive celebrations and we all hope that this will become a regular event. Pedestrian access to the Village would make this much easier.

A dog walking group has evolved and anyone, with or without a dog, is welcome to join us. We meet daily by the electric gates at 3.30pm for a stroll in the grounds. It is a good way of socialising the dogs and getting to know your neighbours.

Margot Deas

LONGHIRST MUSIC SOCIETY

presents a **CHORAL CONCERT** to be given by

THE BRIDGE SINGERS OF FELTON

SATURDAY 25th MARCH at 7.30 pm in LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £7 each inclusive of a glass of wine and plenty of nibbles.

Available from Margaret and Chris Lediard (r) and on the door.

The Bridge Singers of Felton are a relatively new choir of about 40 members under the baton of Cheryl Camm, a conductor and composer. The concert will consist of an eclectic mix of light music for everyone with some instrumental recitals and some readings. The whole evening will be of a light hearted nature and will be suitable for all the family.

All proceeds to St. John's Church

LONGHIRST GARDEN ASSOCIATION and VILLAGE SHOW



We invite you to the **AGM of the Longhirst Garden Association** on **Monday 6th February at 7pm** in the Village Hall and would welcome any ideas as to how we can improve on last year's Show. Although the number of entries and the attendance at the Show itself were down a little, we have decided to run the event on a Sunday for a second year to give time for people to



get used to the change of day. So please make a note of **SUNDAY 3rd September at 2pm** for the **LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW** in the Village Hall and start thinking about your entries now!

The Schedule will be very similar to last year but the **Photographic** section 'Abstract' will be replaced by 'Parish Pets'.

If you have any queries or ideas and are not able to attend the **AGM** please do not hesitate to contact Chris Marr (p) or Jill Elphick (e).

Jill Elphick

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



At the Longhirst Parish Association **AGM** in December Margot Deas, Beryl Gibson, Margaret Lediard and Ian Thompson were re-elected as Trustees and Sandy Eagan-Fowler, Gill Featonby, June Lumsden, Sibell Pigg, and Carol Robson were confirmed as User Group appointees. If anyone has views about how the Village Hall can be improved, please let

the Secretary (c) or one of the Trustees know.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Cressey, Tilly, Arran and I thoroughly enjoyed performing for you at our '*Sing and Bake Concert*' on the 16th December and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our kind friends in the Village and Parish who came along to support this concert in aid of my World Challenge fund-raising. We were delighted that so many people could attend and the event raised £630, which was far more than we had anticipated !



Many of you also bought my handmade, Scandinavian Santa sets. Our conservatory became a full-on, cottage industry for the 6 weeks before Christmas - they sold amazingly well raising another £1,300. My thanks also go to Richard Rutherford for kindly selling them in Rutherford's coffee shop.

Thank you once again. I couldn't have raised my target amount without so many people's support and I am extremely grateful. I hope 2017 is a happy and healthy year for you all.

Kindest regards, Cameron Kirk

EDITORIAL GROUP

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Myra Jackson and thank her for her input over the last 12 years. We are delighted to welcome Mo Dewar from Stable Close (y).

RECYCLE YOUR INKJETS, TONER CARTRIDGES AND MOBILE PHONES

I'm happy to recycle any of these items for the Air Ambulance. They can be left in a box in the Village Hall or given to me (h) at any time.

Gill Featonby



CAN YOU USE THESE ITEMS?

I have a travel cot and high chair which are both in good condition and are free to a good home. Linda Mowbray, 791627

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We offer you a warm welcome to our combined Sunday services at St. John's in Longhirst and St. Andrew's at Bothal.

5th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

12th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm in Rectory

19th February - Family Service 10am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

26th February - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm in Rectory

5th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

12th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

19th March - Holy Communion 9.30am at St. John's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

26th March - Mothering Sunday 9.30am at St. Andrew's, Evensong 4pm in the Rectory

Our Lent Services start on Wednesday 1st March with Communion at 9.30am in St. Margaret's, Pegswood and 7.30pm at St. Andrew's, Bothal. Throughout Lent on a Wednesday evening there will be devotional meetings at 7.30pm - please contact John (b) or Lee (j) for details.

We hope you will be able to join us at these upcoming events:-

Friday 17th February - Broth and Beetle evening - see page 1

Sunday 19th March - Church AGM at 6pm in the Village Hall, all welcome

Saturday 25th March - The Bridge Singers entertain - see page 3

Saturday 29th April - Wildlife Watch Day at Carol Robson's

Saturday 3rd June - Traditional Church Fete in the Village Hall from 2pm

We would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement, particularly with our everlasting fund raising, over the past year. We do appreciate it and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful and happy year in 2017.

Jill Elphick (e)

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)
December	Ticket No. 231	Ticket No. 45	Ticket No. 102

	John Grange	Veronica Healey	Linda Rudd
January	Ticket No. 138 Katherine Lamont	Ticket No. 179 Ian Rowling	Ticket No. 79 Peter Coates

In March, we all need to join, or renew our membership of the Longhirst Hundred club. If you have not signed a standing order you should have a letter from me by the middle of March asking you to join the Hundred Club or to renew your membership. Of course, you may have previously asked me not to approach you about this matter but if not, and you have not heard from me by the last week of March, please let me (c) know.

Mike Elphick

VILLAGE FUND RAISING

Val Thompson has recently heard that the Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted in Ulgham last autumn raised £532.

Our Christmas fund raising through Carol Singing, the Luncheon Club and Christmas Eve Church services raised a total of £550 which will be divided between the Northern Head and Neck Cancer Fund and the Great North Air Ambulance Service, our chosen charities this year.

MY FIRST FEW MONTHS OF CURACY

"Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?"

Serving the people in the Parishes of Bothal and Pegswood with Longhirst in the Morpeth Deanery is certainly busy, but what's different is that there is no bottom line. Over the past few months since my ordination I have had the freedom as Assistant Curate to settle into my role, discover the projects in which I will participate and to work out how much time to devote to each. It was a bit of a struggle deciding how best to fill my diary at the beginning of my curacy, but the freedom to explore what is happening in the Parishes I serve has been a vital part of my settling into a life of ordained ministry and using this period as an opportunity to get to know the people I both serve and share ministry with. It has also helped me to experiment in different places and figure out what my strengths, weaknesses and, most importantly, interests are. I remember leaving theological college like it was only yesterday, feeling nervous about ordination and settling into an area that was totally new to me. I had been used to the busy flow of life in the Benwell area and to serve my curacy in rural Northumberland was a huge change, but a good change-bringing me out of my comfort zone.

A big part of my role is meeting people at different stages of their spiritual journey, whether this is at the Faith and Life course that I help lead with our local Lay Reader, chatting over a meal at Longhirst Village Hall, learning to knit at Pegswood Chapel with a craft group, meeting a bereaved family in preparation for a funeral, welcoming children and adults into the life and witness of the church through the administration of baptism or building up relationships through pastoral visiting.

One thing that has touched me deeply since ordination is what I like to call a 'GOD INCIDENCE.' One day, I went to visit a parishioner in a local care home and met another lady who was confused, crying, and didn't know who, or where she was. She looked up at me (her eyes so red with crying) in a clerical collar. She instantly stopped crying and started to recite 'The Lord's Prayer'. The staff were absolutely astounded, this lady they said hadn't been able to string two words together for months, yet said this prayer without a problem. Sometimes we think we have to use a lot of words to comfort people, that day I didn't speak a single word, I was simply present and she recognized who I was representing. I reflect daily on the promises I made

alongside many others when I was ordained, "Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?" When Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me," he was speaking about the demographics I am called to serve here: people who are poor in spirit and those who are lonely and mournful. These people have become Eucharistic to me, and I personally experience God through them. Overall, I have developed a service-driven theology in which faith and good deeds are, as Martin Luther once suggested, as inseparable as fire and heat.

I'm really loving my curacy, working, praying and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with and alongside those whom I serve.

Lee Cleminson

SNIPPETS OF LONGHIRST HISTORY

Between 1916 and 1919 Ashington Airfield operated from a field to the west of the lane from Longhirst Station to the Ashington Road. Now that the opencast has been filled in you can see a tall group of trees in the shape of a cross on the right. There was a hangar and a few buildings to the south east of the airfield. The remains of one of the buildings, which probably housed explosives, can be seen from the road. B and C flights of 36 Squadron flew from there in 1918. 525 Special Duties Flight, part of 256 Squadron, also flew DH6s on coastal patrols.

Source - www.pastscape.org.uk

Gill Featonby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Monday 6 th	7pm LGA AGM and committee meeting Longhirst Village Hall	(p)
Saturday 11 th	10am Litter Pickers Meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(e)
Wednesday 15 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 17 th	7pm Broth and Beetle evening in the Village Hall	(x)
Sunday 19 th	10am Family Service at St. John's	(b)
Tuesday 21 st	2pm Mother's Union meets at St. Margaret's Pegswood	(g)
Sunday 26 th	Village Amble in Northumberland	(l)

MARCH

Wednesday 1 st	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 2 nd	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall	(a)
Friday 10 th	Deadline for items for the April/May Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Group
Saturday 11 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
	10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(e)
Wednesday 15 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Sunday 19 th	6pm St. John's Church AGM in the Village Hall	(e)
Tuesday 21 st	2pm Mother's union meets at St. Margaret's in Pegswood	(g)
Saturday 25 th	7.30 The Bridge Singers entertain in the Village Hall	(r)

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 Tuesday at 8.15pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
 - Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7.30pm
- Mobile Library 10am in Village/4pm in Colliery 10th/24th February and 10th/24th March

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 29th April - Wildlife Watch Day at Carol Robson's
 Saturday 3rd June - Church Fete
 Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd July - Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival
 Sunday 3rd September - Village Show

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)

Churchwardens - Dorothy McMillan 518375 / e-mail : dorothymcmillan23@yahoo.co.uk (d)
 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)

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

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Luncheon Club - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk (i)

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

Junior Activities Club - Linda Mowbray 791627 (f)
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Longhirst Amblers - Peter Coates 791088 / e-mail: pandc@petercoates.plus.com (l)

Garden Association - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail: chrismarr@btinternet.com (p)

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)

Village Coffee Mornings - Jill Elphick 790764 / e-mail : jill.elphick1@gmail.com (e)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall - Bill Climson 816075 / e-mail: billclimson@gmail.com (m)

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

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