

LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2018 / January 2019



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



LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL

GRAND CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In aid of St. John's Church

Saturday 8th December

10am – 12 noon



Christmas Gifts: Preserves: Flamingo Paperie:
Traidcraft and Woodhorn Matters

Christmas Raffles

Admission and coffee £3. Children 50p.

CAROL SINGING

As usual a small group of Carol singers will be out and about in the Village and surrounding area on **Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th December**, meeting at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Please come and join us, everyone is very welcome.

Carol Robson (f)

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



After the fantastic success of the first three evenings (we had to send out for more beer!), our next Longhirst Village Pub Night is scheduled for **Friday 14th December** from 7.30pm. We'll again have a choice of bottled ales & lagers, wines, prosecco, G&T, dark rum and soft drinks - all at very attractive prices - and a convivial atmosphere with lively chat. Don't miss out on what is becoming one of the highlights of the Village social scene - we'd love to see you at "the pub" in the Village Hall.



Next year the pub nights will be held on the third Friday of each month, so the first will be on **Friday 19th January**.

WOULD YOU LIKE A VILLAGE PUB NIGHT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

If you are interested please let us (h) know and we will be happy to open.

Richard, Allison, Susan and Kathleen (h)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 1st November it was noted that NCC had removed the old **traffic speed warning sign** from outside the Village Hall within 48hrs. of the last meeting being held. NCC engineers had inspected the locations for 2 new speed warning signs (at the north and south of the Village) but the promised visit from a Road Safety Officer was still awaited. Cath Farrell commented on two recent road accidents, one

being a two-car collision beside the Church (which closed the main road for some time) and a second with a vehicle crashing through the hedge just north of the Village.

Following a meeting of the chairmen and secretaries of the Parish Groups (LPC, LPA, PCC, Show Association and Longhirst Leader) copies of the newly published **Welcome Booklet for new Parish residents** were circulated and grateful thanks expressed to Carol Benbow for her efforts in preparing it and for paying the initial printing costs herself. Any new resident wanting a copy of the booklet should contact Peter Coates (k). A Welcome Coffee Morning was being arranged to follow the Remembrance Service on 11th November to encourage new residents to meet their fellow Parishioners.

A number of Micklewood residents attended the meeting to point out that the **pedestrian access at the rear of Longhirst Hall** was still closed and that they were experiencing serious difficulties getting into the Village along the main B1337, especially for those with mobility scooters and with the large number of autumn leaves along the roadside footpath. It was agreed that County Councillor David Towns and Peter Coates would arrange a meeting with NCC Planning Officers to have the access reopened as soon as possible. The dangers of using the B1337 for pedestrian access would be brought to the attention of the Road Safety Officer.

The **planning application** for a change of use for The Hainan (NCC ref: 18/03515'COU) had been considered and no objection raised but the Parish Council had pointed out that there was a potential conflict with the use of a shared access.

Progress on the **possible acquisition of the field** to the immediate north west of the Village (as a future car park and for community allotments) including correspondence with the existing owner and discussions with the individual who held an option to purchase the land was reported. Further developments were awaited.

Advice from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) suggested that the **Parish Council website** needed updating and it was agreed to invite NALC to give a training session for Council members on the latest requirements for local councils.

Grateful thanks were expressed to the Carey family for providing **2 new tubs at the War Memorial** and it was agreed to offer a contribution towards the cost. A **new Parish Council notice board** would shortly be erected at Micklewood Close.

The **next meeting** will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 3rd January** in the Village Hall and all residents are welcome to attend.

Peter Coates

PARISH BROADBAND WORKING PARTY NEWS

The latest news from iNorthumberland at County Hall is that the installation for the Ashington numbers should be complete by mid January (2019!). A date for Broomhaugh/Ashtrees is still awaited.

Peter Coates

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

At the "Welcome" Coffee Morning held on 11th November residents old and new were invited to volunteer to help with a number of activities and it is a pleasure to report that several offered their services. In all cases the more volunteers we have the easier the task will be!

The Longhirst **Litter Pickers** (see video available on YouTube) have been going for 15 years and meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday morning to remove rubbish from our roadside verges. They always welcome new faces to help out and if you would like to do so please contact Chris Lediard (r).

There is also a monthly **Coffee Morning** at 10.15am on the 2nd Saturday and all residents are most welcome to come along. If you want to know what's going on in Longhirst this is the place to be! We need people to offer to help run the Coffee Mornings once or at most twice a year - please contact Jill Elphick (e).

Two other groups are being created. The first, following complaints about the state of many of our road signs, is a **sign cleaning** team which will clean signs once a year. Please contact Peter Coates (k) for further details. The second is a **drain surface cleaning** team which will remove leaves and other debris from the tops of gullies etc., again once a year (contact Richard Tordoff (h)).

Peter Coates

MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

The sale of the recently developed properties is nearly complete with all five of the detached houses at the end of Micklewood Close now sold. The 20 apartments next to Longhirst Hall are nearly finished and have now been released for sale.

Mr Cowell continues to develop the land to the right of the drive with a newly created earth bank between the new fence and the pond. He intends to plant a hedge on top of the bank. He is also creating a short path along the left side of the drive between the turn for the golf club and the existing path.

However, there is still no access to the Village and with the darker nights this is causing concern. Micklewood residents met on the 19th September and agreed to form a Residents Committee. There were 3 volunteers who have contacted Kingston Property Services (the new Management Company) to arrange to meet. The 16th November was the first available date, Sean from Dere Street Homes will also attend this meeting. We are hoping to open a productive dialogue to help resolve some of the issues.

The autumn colours around the estate this year have been a joy especially with the late sunshine and there was a good crop of fairly big conkers hoovered up by various children (and one of their teachers).

Janet Quinn

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2019



Following the meeting in October we are proceeding with plans for an Open Gardens Weekend on **22nd and 23rd June 2019**.

We already have 10 garden owners interested in opening but would welcome interest from more Longhirst and from Micklewood gardeners - whether your garden is large or small. If you would like to know what is involved with opening your own garden before you commit, please get in touch with Linda Mowbray (791627, lindamowbray41@gmail.com) who is coordinating this.

The Open Gardens planning group will be meeting again in January so we will have more details for you then.

Jill McManus (o)

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Trustees are pleased to report that the internal redecoration is well on the way to completion and should be finished by the end of November. The AGM took place on the 22nd November when Beryl Gibson, Keith Launchbury, Margaret Lediard and Elizabeth Yeouart were elected to serve as locally elected Trustees for the coming year. They join the eight Trustees appointed by user groups:- Mo Dewar (Village Show Association), Sandy Egan-Fowler (Craft Groups), Alan Hardiman (Mid-Northumberland U3A), June Lumsden (Lunch Club), Peter McKenzie (Longhirst Music Society), Sibell Pigg (St. John's PCC), Carol Robson (Junior Activities Club), Ian Thompson (Longhirst Parish Council) and the two co-opted officers, Mike Elphick (Secretary) and Linda Rudd (Treasurer).

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

THANK YOU

The Macmillan Coffee morning raised £245. Our thanks go to Val Thompson for continuing to organise this Village event.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



On 11th November the Remembrance Service held at the war memorial was attended by a record number of Parishioners (just under 100) and followed by the "Welcome" Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. At 12 noon St. John's Church participated in the national



bell ringing peal with Will Cottiss (right) and Ian Thompson ringing the bells for 20 minutes.

A GOOD NEWS STORY!

On 12th October I lost my eternity ring which Mike had bought when he retired and I had worn ever since. I had put it, for safekeeping, in my purse with my keys while we went swimming. We assumed that when I pulled my keys out my ring had fallen either somewhere in the car or at the front of our house and, despite our searching, we just couldn't find it. As I arrived for Luncheon Club at the Village Hall on 7th November Walter had just handed in a ring, my ring, which he had picked up in the car park. How amazing! A big 'thank you' to Walter for being so observant - and although only a 'token' of our love it is really wonderful to have my ring back.

Jill Elphick

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)
October	Ticket No. 108 Myra Jackson	Ticket No. 111 Fiona Smith	Ticket No. 223 David Clarkson
November	Ticket No. 144 Joanne Penfold	Ticket No. 174 Luke Vale	Ticket No. 44 Veronica Healey

Mike Elphick

OBITUARY

Margaret Jordon : 8th September 1927 - 20th October 2018



Born in West Hartlepool, County Durham, Margaret was the first child of Rex Sibson and Olive Stoddart. Only one year later, on September 16th 1928, Margaret's beloved Winnie was born, and the two sisters helped and supported each other throughout their whole lives. Margaret and Winnie's father was a dentist, as was his father, Reggie Sibson, whilst Olive, their mother was a teacher, very musical and extremely well read. Very sadly when Margaret was 8 and Winnie 7, their Mother died of surgical shock after an operation and they began to spend most weekends with their father's parents in the village of Croft. They both had a very close, loving relationship with these grandparents.

At the start of the war, Margaret was sent to Ackworth Quaker boarding school, near Pontefract in the West Riding of Yorkshire where she made a number of lifelong friends. She was very homesick for the first term, but then Winnie also joined the school, much to her relief. Both Margaret and Winnie became prefects and were considered to be the prettiest girls in the school. All the girls looked forward to them doing their prefect 'round' because they were the only two prefects who never shouted. In 1945 Margaret gained a place at Newcastle Medical School and enjoyed her time there greatly. She worked very hard and made many good friends. Weekends and holidays were often spent in the Lake District, youth hostelling and walking. By this stage in her life, Margaret had met Bill Jordon at a 21st birthday party. Bill was the only non-medic present. They were married in 1953, with Winnie as the matron of honour. Her daughter Rosi was born in 1954 and son David in 1956. Although Margaret and Bill had very different personalities, in many ways they complemented each other, and were extremely happy together for the whole of their married life. Between them, they threw the most wonderful dinner parties!

Margaret worked as a clinician for Northumberland Health Authority, in child health and family planning. She had very happy memories of her work colleagues during these years, many becoming firm friends. She found her work very rewarding and always felt she was giving something important back to the community. Margaret retired after 25 years full-time work in 1987, devoting herself then to the family, particularly all the joys of being a granny to her five grandchildren. Over the years Margaret made many dear friends in the Longhirst area and always valued these friendships. The carol singers were given a very warm welcome at Christmas time and Margaret delivered the Longhirst Leader around the eastern extremities of the Parish. She and Bill were founder members of the Luncheon Club and Margaret supported the Church Grand Raffle enthusiastically selling tickets at Morrisons, Asda and Heighley Gate for many years, until very near the end of her life. In addition she was a Governor at Pegswood Primary School and enjoyed this role.

Margaret was exceptional in so many ways, yet she never sought any attention, preferring to stay in the background. She valued loyal friendship and was a huge believer in the importance of family life. She continued to love her children and grandchildren, care for them, support them and worry about them until the day she died.

Rosi and David Jordon

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Our Family Advent Toy Service will be held on Sunday 2nd December at 10am in St. John's Longhirst. This is the occasion when we bring toys wrapped as Christmas presents, with a note attached indicating the age and if necessary the 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 offer you a very warm invitation to join us on this occasion and for

all our combined services at St John's Longhirst, St Andrew's Bothal and St Margaret's Pegswood which are as follows:-

Dec 9th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Dec 16th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Dec 23rd - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal

Dec 24th - 6.00pm Family Carol Service at St John's, Longhirst

Dec 24th - 11.30pm Midnight Service at St John's, Longhirst

Dec 25th - 10.15am Christmas Day Service at St Margaret's, Pegswood

Dec 30th - 10.15am Joint Benefice Service at St Margaret's, Pegswood

Jan 6th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 13th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 20th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St John's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Jan 27th - 9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, 4pm Evensong at the Rectory

Other dates for your diary in the run up to Christmas are:-

Saturday 8th December - Christmas Coffee Morning, see page 1

Saturday 15th December - 9.30am clean and decorate the Church

Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th December - Carol singing, see page 1

Sibell Pigg and friends collected £300 in sponsorship from their Steeplechase in September. After a very enjoyable Ceilidh and Harvest Supper at Bothal each Church in the benefice received £207. The Jumble Sale, despite the miserable and cold evening, raised £323. Thank you to everyone for your continued help, support and generosity. Jill Elphick

VICAR'S LETTER



This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Christmas carol "Silent Night". On Christmas Eve, 1818, Father Joseph Mohr of St. Nicholas' church near Salzburg in Austria faced disaster because the church organ was beyond repair and the evening service was fast approaching. He remembered a poem he had written several years before called "Stille Nacht" and took it to the schoolmaster of a nearby town, who hastily wrote an endearing guitar melody to accompany it. The carol was played for the first time that night at the Christmas Eve service. Already much loved, it became famous because of a brief interlude of sanity during World War One at Christmas in 1914. British soldier, Albert Moren, in the front-line trenches recalled, "It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere ... then in the German trenches they sang 'Stille Nacht' - I shall never forget it. It was one of the highlights of my life." May "Stille Nacht" likewise inspire our prayers for peace in the world, amongst our neighbours, friends and families this Christmas. It is also the only carol I have ever heard sung at a summer wedding!

I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas.

John Park

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Sunday 2 nd	10am Family Advent Toy Service St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Tuesday 4 th	12noon Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch	(g)
Wednesday 5 th	11.45 Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 8 th	10am-12noon CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING in the Village Hall	(e)
Friday 14 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Saturday 15 th	9.30am Meet to clean and decorate the Church	(e)
Tuesday 18 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Wednesday 19 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 20 th	6.30pm Carol Singers meet at the Village Hall	(f)
Monday 24 th	6.00pm Family Carol Service in St. John's, Longhirst 11.30pm Midnight Service at St. John's, Longhirst	(b)
Tuesday 25 th	10.15am Christmas Day Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Saturday 29 th	Late black bin collection after Christmas	
Sunday 30 th	10.15am Joint Benefice Service at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(b)
Monday 31 st	Possible Pub Night in the Village Hall - see page 1	(h)

JANUARY

Wednesday 2 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Thursday 3 rd	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall - all welcome	(a)
Friday 4 th	Late blue bin collection after New Year	
Friday 11th	Deadline for items for the February/March Longhirst Leader e-mail to claire@petercoates.plus.com	Editorial Gp
Saturday 12 th	10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall and 10.15am Village Coffee Morning	(r) (e)
Tuesday 15 th	2pm Mothers' Union meet at St. Margaret's, Pegswood	(g)
Friday 19 th	7.30pm Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Wednesday 16 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)

REGULAR EVENTS - Everyone is Welcome

- Church services as detailed on page 6
- Junior Activities Club - closed during December but starts again at 6.30pm on 15th January
- Badminton in the Village Hall on Tuesday at 8pm [please contact Claire Coates (k)]
- Yoga in the Village Hall on Wednesday at 7.30pm

Mobile Library - 10am in the Village on 14th/28th December and 11th/25th January

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 9th February - Foodies Evening

Saturday 16th March - Musical evening with the Felton Bridge Singers.

Saturday 6th April - Craft Fair

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June - Longhirst Open Gardens Weekend

Saturday 13th July - Church Fete

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 : Revleecleminson@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)
- Mothers' Union** - Angela Mason 517872 / e-mail : angela148@hotmail.co.uk (g)
- Longhirst Parish Association** - Ian Thompson 791851 / e-mail : ianoflonghirst@hotmail.co.uk (a)
- Village Hall Bookings** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)
- Open Gardens Weekend** - Jill McManus 791536 / e-mail : jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk (o)
- Luncheon Club** - Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk (i)
- Badminton** - Claire Coates 791088 / e-mail : claire@petercoates.plus.com (k)
- Junior Activities Club** - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com (c)
Carol Robson 07773738442 (f)
- Longhirst Village Show Association** - Carol Benbow 790194 / e-mail : carol_benbow@hotmail.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)
- Village Pub Nights** - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : the.tordoffs@btinternet.com (h)
- Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall** - Maureen Carrick 458674 / e-mail : maureencarrick@talktalk.net (m)
- Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings**-Allan Scott & MADRS 07570 897979/e-mail : enquiries@redsquirrels.com (s)
- Village Website** - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - (u)
- Village Facebook page** - https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel (v)
- Church Website** - www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk (b)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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