

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## August / September 2023

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### AUTUMN FAIR

**Saturday 23 September      10.30am - 2.30pm      Longhirst Village Hall**

Various craft and other miscellaneous stalls

Enjoy our delicious bacon butties, homemade soup and cakes

Admission £1

Everyone is very welcome

Proceeds in aid of St. John's Church

### LONGHIRST WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY TRUST FREE EVENTS

The following free events are planned in August/September:



**Thursday 3 August, 1-3pm** Dragonflies and Damselies, Gosforth Nature Reserve

**Thursday 10 August, 1-3pm** Wildlife Walk around Longhirst

**Friday 8 September, 1-4pm** Butterflies & Moths, Druridge Bay



If you would like to book onto any of these, please email Pauline Gilbertson at [paulinegilbertson@gmail.com](mailto:paulinegilbertson@gmail.com). Lifts will be available if needed. Once we have confirmed dates for further events we will let you know.

### CAROL ROBSON invites you to **AFTERNOON TEA**



at Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane, NE61 3NQ

on **Saturday 19 August 2 - 4pm**



Tickets £6 from Carol (f) by 13 August please.

All proceeds to St. John's Church

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



The Macmillan Coffee Morning is being held on **Saturday 30 September** from 10.15 – 11.45am in the Village Hall. Entrance will be £3 per person to include coffee/tea and a delicious homemade cake or scone.

Please come along and bring your family and friends.

All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Linda Rudd (i)

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



### Longhirst Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday 6 July.

**Deer Warning Signs.** Having raised concerns about the number of animals killed on Ulgham Lane, two residents attended the meeting to ask if they could erect wildlife warning signs at their own expense. They were particularly concerned about the number of deer involved in accidents but noted that other animals, e.g. badgers, had also been killed. The residents acknowledged that some drivers may well take no notice of the signs, but felt that these can be an effective reminder to many and are worth trying. They were willing to erect the signs on their own property or nearby trees. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea but reminded them not to put the signs on the public highway.

#### **Residents' Associations / Groups.**

**Longhirst Colliery:** Bill Dryden has stood down as the representative of Longhirst Colliery at Parish Council meetings and Julie Murray has now been nominated.

**Longhirst Hall:** The Dairy Lane wall repairs appear to be completed but the hardcore road surface is still in situ and the shrubs have not been reinstated.

**Micklewood:** Jon Mills raised a request from one of the new owners on Dairy Lane to ask who actually owns the Lane. The Council understands that this is a complicated matter with the County Council being responsible for highway maintenance up to the bridge, but beyond that it is owned by adjoining landowners.

**Paddock Wood.** A meeting is to be arranged between representatives of the Parish Council and the Woodland Trust to discuss the future management of the wood, with the possibility of the Parish Council becoming involved in the future management.

**Lychgate repairs update.** The contractor has now started on site. Councillors were disappointed that the delays have been so long but are very pleased that it is now underway. (see page 5 for an update)

**Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.** This will be advertised on the notice boards, on the Council's website, and here in the Leader (see page 3). The closing date for expressions of interest is 24 August 2023.

**Local Transport Plan.** Councillors agreed to request both the resurfacing of the remainder of the C125 road and footways from North East Grains, past Longhirst Colliery and along to the T-Junction of Ashington Road as well as raising the height of Ashington Road along a short section to alleviate flooding.

**Damaged Jubilee Tree update.** Despite some earlier minor damage the tree is still alive and doing well. Richard Tordoff will shortly replace the temporary protective fencing with something more substantial, and erect the memorial plaque.

**Potland Park.** The County Council has fitted some 'poachers blocks' to one entrance to deter fly tipping. However these blocks have not been fitted at the other entrance. The fields are being cut but the bridleway remains overgrown.

**Public rights of way repairs.** Due to lack of funds NCC has not actioned any of the repairs on the public rights of way around the Parish. The main items are missing signs, damaged stiles and repairs to a footbridge. The Clerk will contact the Countryside Officer to find out if the Parish Council is allowed to carry out repairs.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 7 September at 7pm** in Longhirst Village Hall.

Janet Quinn (q)

## SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we report the tragic death of Jon Mills while walking on Mont Blanc. He moved to Micklewood four years ago and soon involved himself in Village life. He was voted onto the Parish Council in 2021 and was responsible for surveying and producing a map of the local footpaths and bridleways. He wanted to ensure they were safe and accessible for all users. He was also a director of Micklewood Park Residents' Management Committee and will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Angela, his family and friends at this very difficult time.

## **ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY?**

I am very grateful to all those who help to run Longhirst events, activities and organisations. It wouldn't be the same without you and we receive many comments from outsiders (such as visitors to Open Gardens and members of the Mid Northumberland U3A who have based themselves in the Village Hall) as to how active and well run Longhirst seems to be.

We have the Parish Council, the Parish Association (the trustees for the Village Hall), St John's Parochial Church Council, the Wildlife and Community Trust and the Lunch Club. We also run events such as the Open Gardens Weekends, fairs, fetes, coffee mornings and bar nights. Activities include litter picking, road sign cleaning and floral displays. Residents associations are also active at The Colliery, Micklewood, Longhirst Hall and Broomhaugh.

There is now a real shortage of residents coming forward to help out and I am very conscious that some key individuals are approaching a time when they cannot take on as much as they have in the past.

In the case of the Parish Council we have lost Peter Lovering who unfortunately had to move home to Morpeth and now we have the awful accident that has led to the most untimely death of Jon Mills. We urgently need two people to step forward and help – please contact the Parish Clerk, Helyn Douglas (a), before 24 August to obtain further information.

I recently appealed for volunteers to help with road sign cleaning and pointed out that the time commitment was no more than 1 hour per annum. I only received one reply.

We will only continue as a vibrant community if more individuals are prepared to get involved and come along and help. Please contact the following if you are willing to assist or would like more information:

Parish Council – Helyn Douglas (a)

Wildlife and Community Trust – Kim Woolhead (y)

Lunch Club – Mike Elphick (c)

Litter Picking – Chris Lediard (r)

Sign Cleaning – Peter Coates (k)

Coffee Mornings - Helen McCabe (n)

Pub Nights – Allison and Richard Tordoff (h)

Very many thanks.

Peter Coates, Chairman of Longhirst Parish Council (k)

### **There is an URGENT need to fill TWO VACANCIES ON LONGHIRST PARISH COUNCIL**

For expressions of interest or further information please contact the Parish Clerk

Helyn Douglas on [longhirstpc@gmail.com](mailto:longhirstpc@gmail.com) or 01670 826803

before 24 August

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday evening every other month in Longhirst Village Hall.

The next meeting is on 7 September at 7pm

## HIDDEN GARDENS SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the opening of two Village gardens at the beginning of July. It really was a happy and successful day which raised £220 for St John's Church.

Linda Mowbray, Pam and Andy Bolton

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The equipment for the Fresh Air Ventilation System has been delivered and will soon be installed. Completion of the work is still promised by Friday 25 August and that will give us time to thoroughly clean the building in time to re-open at the beginning of September.

Some of you will know that the new fan radiator in the reading room has not performed satisfactorily since its installation because it draws heat at a faster rate than the boiler, as currently configured, can deliver. A plan has been developed to overcome this problem but the cost (not covered by the Lottery grant) presented problems until a local resident offered a loan to be repaid as and when the Parish Association is able. As a result, the work will be undertaken during August when the Hall is closed so there should be no further interruption to the Hall's busy schedule. It will be good to have these long running projects complete.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

## SOUND BATH SESSIONS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

WHAT IS A SOUND BATH?

A sound bath offers you an opportunity to release stress and tension while instilling feelings of joy, peace, and love through the sacred sounds of the grounding Drum, harmonic Himalayan Singing Bowls and ancient, ambient Gongs.

Beautiful, soft, relaxing waves of sound will first bring you into the present moment, leaving your day/week behind as you settle into your space. Helping lower your brain waves into a dream-like state, connecting with your subconscious mind, you will begin to let go and the hypnotic sounds will transport you to a place of tranquillity, gently soothing your nervous system.

Lowering our brain waves naturally with healing sounds allows us to tune into our intuition, gain insights and see things from a different perspective, helping us release experiences, thought patterns and emotions that don't serve our greatest good.

The next two sessions at Longhirst will be on **Monday 4 and Friday 8 of September** starting at 7pm. I would be delighted to connect with you.

If you have any questions please contact me on 07703 330662 or visit [www.lifeholistictherapies.co.uk](http://www.lifeholistictherapies.co.uk).

Rachel Summerson

## JUNIOR GOLFERS SUCCESS



Many congratulations to Daniel and Ethan Hourigan who will be in a team of three representing Northumberland in the England Golf Junior Champion Club final at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire on August 16 – 17. They will be playing 18 holes each day with the best two scores from the three team members in each round counting.

We wish them every success and look forward to hearing how they fared.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Help with energy problems from Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice can help with energy problems in a number of ways such as emergency fuel vouchers and difficulty with pre-payment meters. We also offer long term support with inaccurate billing, energy debt and faulty meters.

Our services are free to residents of Northumberland and all client details remain confidential.

Carol Ashworth

Energy Advice Service Manager, Citizens Advice Northumberland, South East Hub, Unit 6, Sovereign House, Epsom Drive, Ashington, NE63 8UG.

e-mail: [carolashworth@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:carolashworth@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk)

Tel: 01670 339749, Mobile: 07514 662936

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Many of you will already know that the Rev. John Park, who has been Rector of Longhirst with Pegswood and Bothal since March 2006, will retire in November this year. John has always gone about his work in a quiet and unobtrusive way, yet his exceptional communication skills and his calm, reassuring and inclusive manner have proved to be the gel that has bound together not just the church goers but the wider community, and he will be sorely missed.

Work to rebuild the Lychgate at St. John's Church finally commenced in mid July. The stonework is estimated to be completed in two to three weeks. It is likely then that there will be a hiatus while the joiner sources the wood required to make many new parts since much of the original has rotted and is beyond use. The main front arch however can be preserved. During the reconstruction there will be scaffolding around the working area making access to the Church temporarily unsafe. There are no firm dates for this as yet but probably from mid September for two to three weeks. During this time Church services may be moved to an alternative venue.

The Church intends to involve the whole community in celebrating the reinstatement of the Lychgate and John's retirement after more than seventeen and a half years on dates to be agreed in October.

Watch this space!

August and September's Sunday services are:-

Date	Sunday Holy Communion	Sunday Evening Service
6 August	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
13 August	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
20 August	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
27 August	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
3 September	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
10 September	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
17 September	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
24 September	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst

Every Wednesday morning at 9.30am there is a church service in St. Margaret's Hall in Pegswood.

John Park and Mike Elphick



## VICAR'S LETTER



One of the most familiar of Jesus' stories is the so called, "Parable of the Sower" about a farmer who liberally and carelessly scattered seed all over his field. As the story goes, the seed which fell on stony ground sprouted, but soon withered away; the seed which fell on the path was eaten by birds and the seed falling among the thistles also sprouted at first but soon the young plants were choked, and they also withered away. Only the seed which fell on "good soil" flourished to yield an enormous harvest. It is an allegory of course about the differing human reactions Jesus found to his teaching about having faith and belief in God.

For a long time that was my only understanding of the story until I had a most illuminating conversation about it with a local farmer after taking a service at a nearby country church some time back. He pointed out how unlikely it would be for a farmer to be so careless with his seed as was the sower in Jesus' story. Seed, back then in Jesus' day, just as now, is precious. Therefore, you plant it carefully where it is most likely to grow and be most profitable, you don't just scatter it around. Then the penny dropped. Of course, you don't! That's the point!

Jesus clearly wasn't intending his story to be written up in a farming manual. In his day a farmer sowing seed in a field would have been a very familiar sight to those who were listening to him, so I'm guessing Jesus was banking on his audience seeing the ridiculous side of his portrayal of this foolish sower so wantonly wasting a valuable commodity. It is the absurdity of the image that conveys the message of an outrageously generous God, lavishing his very self on the world in the person of Jesus Christ, even in the most unpromising of places and situations, whatever the outcome. So, the seed is the message of God's love for the world conveyed through the stories of all that Jesus said and did and it falls where it may, to either fail or to flourish.

But what may be said of the good soil, the fertile environment in which the message is heard and understood? As any tiller of the soil may tell you, good soil is that which has been disturbed, ploughed up, dug over, worked on and fertilized. This is fertile ground, and in the ancient world there was a word for it: "humus", fertile ground, which we know as the dark organic material that forms in soil when plant and animal matter decays, making it the ideal environment for growth. Strangely enough our word humility stems from it: a state of mind and heart which life has taught to acknowledge its spiritual need; a state of mind and heart recognising its own spiritual poverty, accepting it has much to learn and receptive to whatever new realisations it may receive. Humility therefore is that most open minded, fertile and liberating of virtues and is "the good soil", as it were, in which faith takes root, in which understanding grows and those people who so cultivate and enrich their hearts and minds, indeed their whole lives, are like those of whom Jesus once also said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

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)
June	Ticket No.139 Joan Proudlock	Ticket No. 9 Chris Marr <i>for Daniel</i>	Ticket No. 188 Maureen Lowes
July	Ticket No. 153 Alex Mitchel	Ticket No. 213 Christine Stevenson	Ticket No. 215 Peter Ions

Mike Elphick (c)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### AUGUST      THERE ARE NO EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL IN AUGUST

3	Thursday	1-3pm LWCT Dragonflies and Damselflies at Gosforth Nature Reserve (P1)	(y)
10	Thursday	1-3pm LWCT Wildlife Walk round Longhirst (see P1)	(y)
12	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n)
18	Friday	9.45am Mobile Library in the Village	
19	Saturday	2 – 4pm Afternoon Tea at Rose Cottage (Carol Robson's)	(f)
29	Tuesday	Late food bin collection	
31	Thursday	Late garden bin collection	

### SEPTEMBER

1	Friday	Late black bin collection	
4	Monday	7pm Sound Bath session in the Village Hall (see P4) <b>Deadline for October / November Leader</b> e-mail to <a href="mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com">clairecoates32@gmail.com</a>	Ed. Group
6	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
7	Thursday	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
8	Friday	1-4pm LWCT Butterflies and Moths at Druridge Bay (see P1) 7pm Sound Bath session in the Village Hall (see P4)	(y)
9	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall 10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n) (r)
15	Friday	9.45am Mobile Library in the Village 7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
20	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
23	Saturday	10.30am – 2.30pm Autumn Fair in the Village Hall	(f)
30	Saturday	10.15 – 11.45 Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(i)

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- 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.go.uk](mailto:david.towns@northumberland.go.uk) **(g)**

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

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

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

**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 : [barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk](mailto:barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk) **(i)**

**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 Room bookings** – Mary Climson 07727 198108 / [maryclimson67@gmail.com](mailto:maryclimson67@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:**

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

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773 738442 **(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)**

Kim Woolhead – 3 Broomhaugh: 07749 811937, [kim.woolhead@gmail.com](mailto:kim.woolhead@gmail.com) **(y)**