

LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2022



Longhirst Open Gardens
18th & 19th June 2022
Would you like to help?

We are delighted to let you know that the Longhirst Open Gardens will go ahead this year and the organising Committee are seeking volunteers to help with a range of tasks, in particular:

Car Parking, Mini Bus Driving, Catering , Flower arranging, Stewards and Social Media

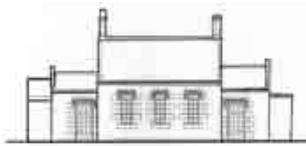
We would also love to know if there are any gardens in Micklewood Close or around Lawson Villas / The Hall who would like to open their garden

For more information, to offer help or open your garden please contact:

Jill McManus, email jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk, Tel 07837525634

For more information check out the Web site
<https://www.longhirstopengardens.org/>

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



It is with sadness that we report Keith Launchbury's decision to resign his position as an elected Village Hall Trustee. He has fulfilled that role since 2017 and his wise and thoughtful contributions will be greatly missed. This leaves a vacancy on the board and the existing Trustees

will be happy to hear from anyone in the Parish who has the time and interest to help manage and develop our Village Hall. Please contact Mike Elphick (c) for nomination papers.

At long last there is movement on the re-development of the Village Hall Library Room which should be complete by the end of February or soon after.

The Board of Trustees submitted three bids for funding to the National Lottery early in December. They were for solar panels on the south facing Elphick Room roof together with battery packs to provide most of our electricity; the refurbishment of the Reading Room and the installation of a fresh air ventilation system. So far we have not heard the results of those submissions and, as always with the National Lottery, there is no guarantee that we will get the funding, so watch this space.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the meeting held on 6th January the Deputy Leader of the County Council, **Richard Wearmouth**, was welcomed back to report on the issues raised with him at the previous meeting.

- The Parish Council has belatedly received an invoice from NCC for £1200 for the cost of the elections held last May.
- Advance Northumberland is transferring the ownership of the Potland Park land to the County Council and this should facilitate the resolution of the Ashington Road flooding and Public Rights of Way obstruction issues. The Parish Council requested that the clearance of the drainage ditch east of the road (to release flood water) be treated as a matter of urgency. This was particularly important as the roadworks on Station Road were underway and road closures were planned necessitating diversions along the Ashington Road.
- NCC believed that they were unable to assist with the lack of a pedestrian access from the Village on the north side of the Longhirst Hall estate through to Micklewood Close. Notes of a meeting held in 2018 between the Parish Council and a former NCC planning officer showing NCC's intention to ensure there was an access had recently been given to the County Council and after discussion it was agreed that David Towns and Peter Coates should meet the former officer to try and ascertain what had been documented at the time.
- Parish Councillors requested clarification of exactly how many homes had received planning approval in the field north of Dairy Lane and the length of time authorised for construction access through the "hole in the wall" from the Longhirst Hall estate to the field.

Councillor Wearmouth was thanked for his second attendance at a Parish Council meeting.

A resident then outlined the recent **flooding problems** that were being experienced in **Lawson Villas** following works by the developers of the new homes north of Dairy Lane. The developer had promised measures to improve the situation but residents were planning to commission an independent survey to assess the drainage system as a whole.

County Councillor David Towns referred to the inquiry being undertaken by NCC to review the response to **Storm Arwen**. He also mentioned that NCC have now set up Northumberland Communities Together to coordinate efforts by individual volunteers, voluntary groups and communities across the County for any emergency situation. They can be contacted at the Response Hub (e-mail: NCT@northumberland.gov.uk, tel: 01670 620015, 9am to 6pm, seven days a week). Full details are on the webpage at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Northumberland-Communities-Together/NCT.aspx#northumberlandcommunitiestogether>

It was reported that following the Storm several properties within the Parish had been without power or water for 4 days and 9 without power for 10 days. The Village Hall had proved invaluable in providing warmth, power, cooking facilities and wifi and consideration should be given to ensuring back up power sources in the now quite likely event of further emergencies. Peter Coates would arrange a meeting of the various Parish Groups to discuss this. The Parish Association already have measures in hand.

Chris Marr was congratulated on the **improved Longhirst Village web site**. It has a more modern design and should be easier to change and adapt in future.

A revised **planning application** has been submitted to NCC for 5 new homes in **Domino's Field**. A formal objection from the Parish Council was being prepared as a matter of urgency.

It was agreed to increase the **Parish Precept** by the level of inflation (5%).

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

Peter Coates (k)

DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO USE A DEFIBRILLATOR?



The defibrillator located in the bus shelter outside the Village Hall is fully operational and ready for use in an emergency. Needless to say we will all be delighted if it never needs to be used!



I for one am very grateful to know it is there and have always understood that the machine has

recorded voice instructions that tell you what to do to help a casualty. I have always been wary, however, and sincerely hoped that it won't be me that is called upon in a serious emergency.

Richard Tordoff has run a number of very successful training courses on the use of the defibrillator and Claire and I attended one of these recently. I can't recommend attendance too highly. They are entertaining, hands on, brief (around one hour) and above all give you the confidence to use the machine when it really can save someone's life. Remember it could be you who is called upon or you who is the casualty. In either case the chances of survival are likely to be greater if the person using the defibrillator is less hesitant and isn't quite as nervous as they otherwise might have been!

Three more training sessions are planned: **Monday 21st February 3.00-4.30pm, Wednesday 2nd March 3.00-4.30pm and Thursday 10th March 7.00-8.30pm.**

Please contact Mike Elphick (c) to reserve your place or for more information. I am quite confident that you will find attending a very positive experience.

Peter Coates

BROTH & BEETLE EVENING

Please join us on **11th March** for our broth and beetle drive at 7pm in the Village Hall. This is always an evening of delicious food and competitive hilarity and even includes prizes!

Tickets are £5 from Carol Robson (f) by 4th March please.

Don't miss it!

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



Come and join friends old and new at the Pub Nights from 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the third Friday of each month (**18th February, 18th March, 15th April**).

A huge choice of ales, wines and spirits are available at non profitable prices!

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



WEEKLY MOBILE POST OFFICE IN PEGSWOOD

A mobile Post Office stops in De Walden Terrace, Pegswood (near Glenton's Bakery) **every Thursday from 11.45am - 12.45pm.**

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

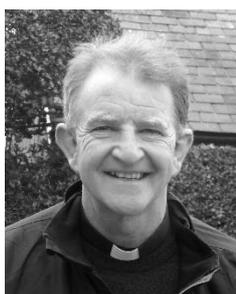


February and March's Sunday services are:

Date	Holy Communion
Sunday 6 th February	9.30am at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 13 th February	9.30am at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 20 th February	9.30am at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 27 th February	9.30am at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 6 th March	9.30am at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 13 th March	9.30am at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Sunday 20 th March	9.30am at St. John's, Longhirst
Sunday 27 th March	9.30am at St. Andrew's, Bothal

Every Wednesday at 9.30am in St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood there is a service of Holy Communion to which all are welcome.

VICAR'S LETTER



Many thanks to all who gave Christmas gifts at our annual Advent Sunday Toy Service at the end of November. Staff from The Cedarwood Centre at Meadow Well in North Shields collected the gifts the next day and were delighted with the huge number donated as you can see from the photo showing many of the gifts arranged in front of the altar at St. John's. Your kindness brought much Christmas cheer to many youngsters at Meadow Well.



But how the time flies. In the last edition of the Longhirst Leader we were preparing for Christmas and now I find myself eagerly looking forward to the Spring. By the time Ash Wednesday comes around, which this year is quite late on 2nd March, I hope that signs of Spring will be clearly evident and not least in St. John's churchyard with its spectacular annual carpet of snowdrops. In the Christian calendar of course, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, that season of contrasts. On the one hand, Lent is traditionally associated with penitence and fasting, sackcloth and ashes, and as such is commonly perceived as a rather gloomy time. However, deriving from the old English word Lenten, (which simply meant Springtime), Lent takes its name from the rather more cheery prospect of the gradual "lengthening" of the daylight at this time of year. Lent thus hints at the renewed optimism to be found in nature with its seasonal restoration of foliage and flowers to the earth, and increasing light and warmth from the sun. That's why the six weeks of Lent are used by Christians to engage in spiritual preparation for and anticipation of the celebration of the risen Christ on Easter morning, which is, after all, the very heart and soul of our faith. Thus the changing seasons conspire with the Christian calendar in helping us look forward to better days ahead, just as Lent, culminating in the tragedy of Good Friday, gives way to the glorious triumph of Easter Day: and goodness knows, couldn't we all do with some better days?

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday 2nd March and on that day a service will be held in St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood at 9.30am.

John Park (b)

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. 27 David Errington	Ticket No. 80 Brian Rudd	Ticket No. 168 Louise Bassett
January	Ticket No. 48 Bill Wake	Ticket No. 177 Margaret Lediard <i>for Ben</i>	Ticket No. 78 Linda Rudd <i>for Robert</i>

We are approaching that time of year when we all need to join or renew our membership of the Longhirst Hundred Club. If you have not signed a standing order you should receive a letter from me by the middle of March. If you have not heard from me by the last week of March, please let me know. All proceeds are shared between the Church and the Village Hall. Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 2 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Saturday 12 th	10.30am - 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n)
	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
Wednesday 16 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 18 th	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Monday 21 st	3 - 4.30pm Defibrillator training course in the Village Hall	(c)

MARCH

Wednesday 2 nd	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Wednesday 2 nd	3 - 4.30pm Defibrillator training course in the Village Hall	(c)
Thursday 3 rd	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
Thursday 10 th	7 - 8.30pm Defibrillator training course in the Village Hall	(c)
Friday 11 th	7pm Broth and Beetle Evening in the Village Hall	(f)
Friday 11th	Deadline for the April / May Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
Saturday 12 th	10.30am - 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(n)
	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(r)
Wednesday 16 th	11.45am Luncheon Club in the Village Hall	(i)
Friday 18 th	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
Sunday 27 th	British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward 1 hour	

REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 4
 - Pound Fitness Class in the Village Hall on Tuesdays, 6.45 - 7.30pm
 - Yoga in the Village Hall on Sunday at 9.30am
 - 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
- Mobile Library - 9.45am in the Village on Friday 4th February and Friday 4th March

FUTURE EVENTS

Open Gardens Weekend - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June

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 (a)

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

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

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

Heather Jackson 07756 690027/ e-mail : siriusa1998@aol.com (d)

PCC Secretary - (e)

Longhirst Parish Association - Margaret Lediard 790268/ e-mail : margaret.lediard@tiscali.co.uk (t)

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

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

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 - Helen McCabe 790494 / e-mail : mccabe_paul1@sky.com (n)

Village Pub Nights - Allison and Richard Tordoff 790364 / e-mail : rtordoffs@gmail.com (h)

Open Gardens Weekend - Jill McManus 07837 525634 / e-mail: jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk (o)

Longhirst Colliery Residents Association - Norah Dryden 817862 / e-mail : n.dryden@sky.com (j)

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Hall -- Bill Dryden 817862. / email : drydenx2@btinternet.com (m)

Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings - MADRS 07570 897979 / enquiries@madredsquirrels.com (s)

Village Website - www.longhirstvillage.co.uk - Chris Marr 790196 / e-mail : chrismarr@btinternet.com (u)

Village Facebook page - 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 (b)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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

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Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, dewarms@btinternet.com (w)

Janet Quinn - 38 Micklewood Close : 790630, quinnjanet@sky.com (q)

Kim Woolhead - 3 Broomhaugh: 07749 811937, kim.woolhead@gmail.com (y)