

LONGHIRST LEADER

APRIL & MAY 2026

WHAT'S ON...

Longhirst Monthly Luncheon Club

12 noon Wednesdays 1 April, 6 May and 3 June Longhirst Village Hall

Looking for good food, great company, and a friendly atmosphere? Our monthly Luncheon Club at Longhirst Village Hall, on the first Wednesday of each month at midday, is the perfect place to enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal while catching up with friends and neighbours. Our wonderful volunteers prepare a hearty main course followed by a tempting dessert. Whether you come along with friends or on your own, you'll always find a warm welcome and plenty of conversation. It's a lovely way to start the month, meet new people, and support our community. Everyone is welcome — just bring your appetite and a smile!
Cost: £7.50 in cash

Booking: Please contact Helen McCabe 07964 159957 or Diane Milmore 07962 138788 via phone or text for any queries or updates

Coffee Mornings

10.30am Saturdays 11 April, 9 May and 13 June Longhirst Village Hall

A reminder that our monthly Coffee Morning takes place in the Village Hall on the second Saturday of each month between 10:30 and 12:00, following on from the village litter-picking session. The Hundred Club draw also takes place. It's a lovely chance to catch up with neighbours: for £1.50 enjoy delicious fresh coffee or tea with cake and biscuits, and support the community at the same time.

We're always delighted to welcome new faces, and if anyone would like to join the hosting rota (1-2 times per year) or maybe bake a cake for one of the mornings, your help would be very much appreciated.

If you'd like to get involved contact Helen McCabe on 07964 159957

Scam Awareness Talk

**Thursday 23 April 10.30am Newcastle Building Society
Community Room Ashington**

For more information, please contact Allison Tordoff on 07702311013 or wadders40@gmail.com

Pub Nights at the Village Hall

Friday 17 April & Friday 15 May 8 – 11pm

All welcome for a fun and friendly social evening.



LONGHIRST NEWS

Welcome to Longhirst

We would like to extend a welcome to all the new residents who have recently moved to Longhirst. We hope you will be very happy in your new homes and we look forward to welcoming you to village events.

Mid-Northumberland u3a

We are a branch of the national organisation and have around 274 members. Many of our meetings take place at Longhirst Village Hall and a number of Longhirst residents are members. We have just over 30 groups, ranging from bridge to badminton and geography to genealogy and ancestral studies.

Many of our group meetings take place on a regular basis at the Village Hall, with some taking place in people's homes or at Morpeth Leisure Centre. We also have two walking groups.

We hold a range of events over the year at the Hall as well as our monthly general meetings where we invite various speakers.

Our annual membership is £12 per person and if you would like further information please contact: midnorthumberlandu3a@gmail.com

Open Gardens and Flower Festival

Helen McCabe

Join us for the St John's Flower Festival!

As part of the Open Gardens weekend, the Flower Festival at St John's Church will ensure it is bursting with colour, and promises to be a joyful celebration of creativity, community spirit and the beauty of nature. To make it happen, we need your help.

- Financial donations will go towards purchasing flowers for the displays.
- Foliage donations closer to the event will be warmly welcomed.
- Flower arrangers of all abilities are invited to take part – whether you're a seasoned florist or a first-time enthusiast.

If you'd like to contribute in any way, please contact Helen McCabe 07964 159957 (for arranging or foliage) and either Helen McCabe or Chris Lediard 01670 790268 (for financial donations).

And here's something extra to look forward to – we're planning a Flower Arranging Masterclass with Prosecco and nibbles to raise funds and share some creative tips. Keep an eye out for more details soon.

Let's make this year's Flower Festival a truly spectacular part of our Open Gardens Weekend. Your support – big or small – will make all the difference.

Hundred Club

Pauline Gilbertson

If you are not already a member of the Hundred Club, now is your chance to join! Each tickets costs £12 per year and you have a good chance of winning a cash prize in the monthly draw, which usually takes place at the village coffee morning on the second Saturday of the month. First prize is £60, second is £40 and third is £20.

The modest annual profit, after the 36 prizes are distributed, is shared between St John's Church and the Longhirst Wildlife & Community Trust and you can choose if you want to support both charities or just one of them.

If you'd like to join, please drop me an email and I'll send you a membership form. It's fun to win a cash prize and you're helping to support good local causes!

Just get in touch by email paulinegilbertson@gmail.com or phone 07717 224072

Month	1 st Prize (£60)	2 nd Prize (£40)	3 rd Prize (£20)
February	103 Maureen Chambers	171 Paul McCabe	199 E. H. Robinson
March	14 Family of Mike Elphick	192 Peter Mackenzie	199 E. H. Robinson

Longhirst Parish Association

Gerard Thornton

The Hall is an excellent local facility, especially now that we believe the electrics are finally fixed!

It is well used, especially by U3A, but we are finding numbers declining for some of our social activities. While there are always a good number of regulars at the community events, it would be lovely to see more people at the coffee mornings - £1.50 buys a drink and biscuits/cake. Please wander along if you are free on the second Saturday of each month, and I know Luncheon Club and Pub Night would love to see more new faces.

Finally, following some recent changes to the Village Hall Committee, Janet Quinn has stepped down as Chair and Gerard Thornton has taken on the role. Andy Robson has also stepped down as Secretary and left the committee. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for all his hard work and dedication, particularly his efforts during the transition following the sad passing of Mike Elphick.

If anyone in the community would be interested in becoming a trustee and supporting the hall, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Gerard Thornton by email at gthornton.lvh@gmail.com

The Trust continues to go from strength to strength with ever increasing attendances at our presentation meetings in the Village Hall and at visits. Maybe spending more time learning about the natural world is proving far more beneficial than following the news on current national and worldwide events.

Our meetings have included illuminating talks on local swifts, moths, harvest mice, water voles, beavers, bees, fungi, pond life and bird ringing. Guided walks have taken us around Longhirst Village and its surroundings looking at orchids and other plants and trees and we have made trips to Low Hauxley and to East and West Chevington. We have even had a presentation about Gin and Wilding by Hepple Spirits.

If you wish to be notified of future events, please pass your email address to Pauline Gilbertson at paulinegilberston@gmail.com We will be delighted to see you!

Following the very sad loss of Mike Elphick in April last year we have taken over the administration of the Longhirst 100 Club and we are now planning how we can contribute to the Open Gardens Weekend.

You may have seen us working on the island adjacent to the car park at St. John's Church. The intention, as reported in earlier editions of The Leader, is to improve the condition and appearance of the island. Last year we removed a lot of the brambles; work this winter was delayed by the very wet weather and we were anxious to progress before the bird nesting season, which left a tight window. The old roadside hedge has now been lowered and reshaped which should significantly improve its appearance for the future and allow much more daylight into the centre of the island. This will enable the planting of carefully selected new trees and shrubs and maybe plants such as bluebells.



The car park had become very untidy with a large build-up of leaf mould along the length of the church wall. Almost 100 wheelbarrows full of material have been removed (see photo) and we would very much welcome an offer from two or three residents to finish clearing the far corner of the car park, a job that should take less than an hour. If you are willing to help, please contact me at pandccoates@gmail.com

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the work so far and we hope a few more will be willing to join us in the future.

Planning application at Fairwinds

The Parish Council discussed the planning application at Fairwinds, Ulgham Lane, Longhirst, Northumberland, NE61 3NE for a change of use from a private residence (Class C3) to a supported home (Class C2).

Longhirst Parish Council agreed to object to Northumberland County Council concerning this planning application for the following reasons:

Whilst Longhirst Parish Council understand the need for these types of property, this specific property and its location is not suitable for proposed use. The main East Coast railway line is approximately 15m from the house entrance, and to access public transport the children would need to walk to the Longhirst bus stop. This walk of approximately 1.5 miles is on a 60 mile an hour road, with no path or lighting for the first half mile. In previous residence applications, Northumberland County Council has stated “that this area does not have good public transport links and is unsuitable. All employees and guests related to this application would be forced to use private vehicles which is against local and central government guidelines.”

Longhirst Parish Council feels that this property is overpriced and considers it to be a waste of taxpayers’ money, as there are a number of semi-rural houses with large gardens considerably below this price in Northumberland. If the council wished to purchase a more realistically priced house in the local area with access to good transport links, Longhirst Parish Council would have no objections.

Christmas lights

It was agreed that the cost of Christmas lighting on lamp posts was prohibitive. The Parish Council did however support moves to promote Christmas displays within private residences.

Road safety and speeding update

The Parish Council still awaits technical design proposals from Northumberland County Council. The damaged chicane and faulty speed signs have been reported, and repairs will hopefully be made soon.

Cllr Tordoff has a contact within Community Speedwatch and it was agreed that the Parish Council could consider inviting them to a future meeting.

Potland Park

There were discussions regarding the development of Potland Park as part of the biodiversity net gain and carbon offset projects; we are to see the introduction of numerous small ponds to create wetland areas, 3000 trees are to be planted, and paths may extend all the way to Ashington.

Next meeting

The upcoming meeting on 7 May will also incorporate our AGM.

APRIL DIARY

1	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club
10	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library
10	Friday		Late bin collection (General waste black bin)
11	Saturday	10.00am 10.30-12.00am	Litter picking Coffee morning
17	Friday	8.30-11.00pm	Pub night

MAY DIARY

1	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library
6	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club
8	Friday		Late bin collection (General waste black bin)
9	Saturday	10.00am 10.30am-12noon	Litter picking Coffee morning
15	Friday	8.30pm-11.00pm	Pub night
22	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library

Unless stated otherwise, all events are held in the Village Hall. The mobile library parks opposite the Village Hall near the bus stop.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Date	Time	Service
5 April	9.30am	Easter Sunday
12 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
19 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
26 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
3 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
10 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
17 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
24 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
31 May	10.15am	Holy Communion at St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood

LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pilates	Fridays	9.30-10.30am	charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com
Sewing Group	First & Third Tuesdays	10am-2pm	helenpotts65@gmail.com
Pilates	Tuesdays	5.45-7.00pm	Jillates-Pilates with Jill
u3a	midnorthumberlandu3a@gmail.com		https://midnorthumberland.u3asite.uk

Reminder

The fish van from Eyemouth stops by the war memorial every Friday around 9am.

CONTACT LIST

Parish Council Clerk	Barry Flux	07472002538	longhirstpc@gmail.com
Parish Council Chair	Glen Fahy	07752 279939	glenfahy06@aol.com
Parish Council website	https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst		
County Councillor	Ed Dungait		ed.dungait@northumberland.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	David Smith	01670 704099	david.smith.mp@parliament.uk
Churchwarden & Parochial Church Council	Heather Jackson	07756 690027	sirusa1998@aol.com
Church website	https://longhirstchurch.chessck.co.uk/		
Longhirst Parish Association	Gerard Thornton		gthornton.lvh@gmail.com
Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust	Kim Woolhead	07749 811937	kim.woolhead@gmail.com
Longhirst Hundred Club	Pauline Gilbertson		paulinegilbertson@gmail.com
Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room Bookings	Mary Climson	07727 198108	maryclimson67@gmail.com
Longhirst Village Hall Bookings	https://longhirstvillagehall.co.uk		
Lunch Club	Helen McCabe Diane Milmore	07964 159957 07962 138788	
Litter Picking	Pauline Gilbertson		paulinegilbertson@gmail.com
Coffee Mornings	Helen McCabe	07964 159957	mccabe_paul1@sky.com
Village Website www.longhirstvillage.co.uk	Chris Marr	01670 790196	chrismarr@btinternet.com
Village Facebook Group	www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage		
Longhirst Leader	Jill McManus	07837 525634	longhirstleader@gmail.com
	Mo Dewar	01670 791149	dewarms@btinternet.com
	Janet Quinn	07791543657	quinnjanet@sky.com
	Kim Woolhead	07749 811937	kim.woolhead@gmail.com