

LONGHIRST LEADER

April / May 2022

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE COMMUNITY PICNIC



The Parish Groups agreed to propose that an informal Community Picnic is held in the Millennium / Paddock Wood at **12 noon on Saturday 4 June**. Everyone is invited to bring along their own tables, chairs or blankets and food and drink. A portaloos and transport to and from home will be provided for those who need



it. Fingers crossed for decent weather, otherwise we will assemble in the Village Hall to mark the occasion.

In the meantime offers to help transport people to the wood in 4x4s and any further suggestions would be most welcome. Please contact Claire Coates (k).

Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE OPEN GARDENS AND CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND SATURDAY 18 & SUNDAY 19 JUNE



Thanks to everyone who has been in touch about helping out during the Open Gardens Weekend. More volunteers are always welcome as there is plenty to do.

We will be finalising our list of gardens that are opening at the beginning of April so if you are considering this please get in touch with Jill McManus (c) as soon as possible.

The Church plans to host a Flower Festival as part of the Weekend. We are fortunate to have secured the help of our two local flower Clubs, Morpeth and Ellington together with a number of other individual flower arrangers to produce what we are sure will be a stunning display. We also have promises of donations for the flowers amounting to £200 which is more than half of the amount that will be required. These promises of funding are in memory of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to make a small donation in memory of someone you have lost and have their name/s acknowledged at the Flower Festival, please contact Mike Elphick (c).



Finally, thanks to those who made donations for the plants from Wansbeck Garden Centre and for other generous donations.

Jill McManus (o) and Mike Elphick (c)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the Council Meeting held on the 3 March:

Longhirst Colliery Woodland Clearance

Two residents attended the meeting and raised a concern that the County Council is going to clear fell the woodland at the back of Longhirst Colliery. This woodland suffered serious damage during the recent storms and a number of trees have fallen down. County

Councillor David Towns has since confirmed that, following instructions from Network Rail, the intention is to clear a 25m buffer strip next to the railway and to remove the fallen and any dangerous trees. There are no plans to clear fell the wood.

Following questions about the focus of the Parish Council, Peter Coates confirmed that the Council represents the whole of the Parish and all residents are invited to attend the bi-monthly meetings.

Highways Issues

Ashington Road Peter Coates reported that some ditch clearance has been done and this should keep the road passable for now but more work will be needed before next winter.

Station Road Part of Station Road and the footway alongside have been resurfaced and there are new road markings at the cross-roads. Peter Coates thanked the County Council for doing an excellent job. Some residents had raised concerns about the lack of kerb facings but the Parish Council accepts that this would be a costly task to undertake. Unfortunately the County Council's budget of £90,000 only covered the cost of resurfacing to just past North East Grains. An extension to the footpath beyond the Colliery to the railway has been requested by the Parish Council but budget constraints mean this is unlikely to happen in the near future.

Jubilee Activities / Funding (tree and plaque)

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee the planting of a commemorative tree marked with a plaque from the Royal British Legion was agreed in principle. The type of tree and where to plant it is being considered.

Request from a resident for a litter bin at Longhirst Colliery bus shelter

A resident has written in to request the reinstatement of a litter bin at the bus shelter at Longhirst Colliery. When the shelter was active there was a bin there, but it has since been removed or fallen off. The resident complained of rubbish and human waste being left inside the shelter. The question is whether a bin is the right answer if the problem is not actually litter. Glen Fahy will look into this.

Planning Issues

Confirmation has been sought from NCC that the "hole in the wall" allowing access for construction works from Longhirst Hall to the new dwellings north of Dairy Lane is only temporary. This has now been received.

NCC's decision for the planning application for 5 new homes in Domino's Field was expected shortly. This has now been received and the application has been firmly refused.

Residents of Micklewood Close have been asked to provide a copy of one set of deeds that state that they will be given pedestrian access onto Dairy Lane. This issue can then be taken forward with the Planning Dept.

Review of the Strategic Parish Plan

There was a lengthy discussion on the review of the Strategic Parish Plan which identifies key areas for action by the Parish Council and records progress. Chris Marr led an activity to review

the plan with a view to updating it and making it more relevant to current needs. The discussion is ongoing.

Parish Groups Meeting

Representatives from the Parish Council, Longhirst Parish Association, Longhirst Show Association, Parochial Church Council, Open Gardens, Wildlife and Community Group and the Longhirst Leader met to discuss a variety of issues.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic The Groups agreed to propose that a Community Picnic is held in the Millennium / Paddock Wood starting at 12 noon on Saturday 4 June with residents invited to bring along their own tables, chairs, blankets, food and drink. It is intended to be quite informal. Arrangements will be made to have the grass cut and to hire a portalo. Transport will also be arranged for anyone who needs it (such as those with mobility problems).

Storm Arwen The Village Hall proved to be an essential resource during and after the storms providing heat, water, cooking facilities, electricity and wifi. The importance of maintaining power supplies at the Hall was recognised and the Parish Association had already submitted a bid for the installation of solar panels and batteries. Funds for a back up generator will also be sought.

The Parish Council has agreed to donate £1,000 per year for the next three years. This would be used by the Village Hall to meet additional emergency running costs.

Covid Pandemic The Parish had fared better than most with local informal social networks providing assistance where necessary. The efforts of all the volunteers to help with shopping etc. were much appreciated.

Open Gardens Weekend Preparations are well under way and a number of gardens have already been offered for the event.

Wildlife and Community Group A Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust is to be created and a bid for Natural Heritage Lottery funding has been submitted. The Parish Council agreed to donate £100 per year to the Trust to help with running costs.

Church Lychgate The decision on how to proceed with the repairs lies with the Ecclesiastical Authorities and this is proving to be slow.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Public AGM, Thursday 5 May at 6.30pm in Longhirst Village Hall.

All residents are invited to attend.

Janet Quinn (q)

COLLIERY CORNER



There will be a Linoprint Workshop with Simply Smallholding on **Saturday 21 May** from **09.30 - 13.30** in Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room (NE61 3ND).

You will learn how to create a mono- or two-colour Linoprint. All materials will be provided as well as tea/coffee & biscuits. Price £40 per person

To reserve your place please contact Barbara Scott on 07823407090

Norah Dryden, Secretary, Longhirst Colliery Residents Association

WELCOME

Gerard and Philippa Thornton have very recently moved into their new home at 5 Broomhaugh. We hope they will be very happy there and look forward to seeing them at future Village events.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS



We have good news to report in this issue of the Longhirst Leader. At long last, the refurbishment of the Library at the Village Hall is complete; the books are back on the shelves and available to borrow as are the jigsaws. We also have dark and dry cupboards to store the historical records collected by Ian Thompson and Gill Featonby and Peter McKenzie has agreed to create a series of displays of these records on a board put up for the purpose.

The other bit of good news is that we have been awarded a Lottery Grant of just over £65K to install solar panels on the south facing Elphick Room roof together with battery packs to provide most of our electricity, to refurbish the Reading Room and to install a fresh air ventilation system for both the Elphick Room and the Reading Room. The money will become available from April this year and needs to be spent before the end of March 2023. It's going to be a busy year.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



The Longhirst Village Show has been a well-established tradition in our Village calendar since it was first introduced in 1915. Lots of Villagers have taken part over the years, competing to see who has grown the best fruit, vegetables or flowers, as well as competing in the baking, crafts and photograph sections of the Show and helping to run the event every year.

Other parts of the annual Show which people have always seemed to enjoy have been the raffle, tombola, auction and, of course, the teas.

Over the 107 years since the Show first began the number of entrants in various classes has steadily declined as people move on and interests change with the times. The Village Show Committee have recently decided to look at doing something different in the future rather than continue with the Show in its traditional form. We are keen to try to preserve and possibly develop the successful aspects and to keep that sense of community that was a key part of it.

These are some of the ideas so far

- We could attach the most popular aspects/ parts of the Village Show to other regular or annual events in the Village such as the Village Coffee Mornings, creating 'themed events' (e.g. a photography exhibition or display of flowers / vegetables)
- We could create a brand-new annual event in place of the Village Show
- We could disband the Village Show altogether in light of other popular Village events that are in place and already foster a community spirit

We would like to involve people who live in the Parish before any final decisions are made. It would be enormously helpful to know which parts of the Village Show have been the most enjoyable and valuable to YOU over the years. We would also like to invite your ideas and suggestions and we will discuss these before deciding on the best way forward.

Please pass your comments and suggestions to Carol Benbow (p), Chris Marr (u) or any other member of the Show Association.

Carol Benbow

Carol Robson invites you to a **WILDLIFE WATCH DAY** in aid of St. John's Church
at **ROSE COTTAGE, ULGHAM LANE** on **SATURDAY 23 APRIL**



10.00am - 12.00noon Coffee/tea and scones
2.00pm - 4.00pm Tea/coffee and cake



Raffle and Bottle Tombola
£5 per session, includes refreshment

Come with your friends to enjoy a peaceful haven and watch the wildlife.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



The Broth and Beetle Drive was again enjoyed by all and raised £205 for Church funds. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a success.

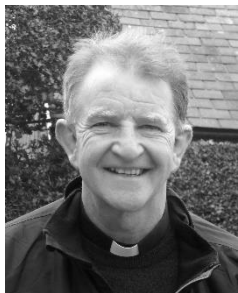
St. John's Parochial Church Council Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday **24 April at 6pm** in Longhirst Village Hall.

April and May's services are:-

Date	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
3 April	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Margaret's, Pegswood
10 April (Palm Sunday)	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. Margaret's, Pegswood
14 April	7.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal	
15 April (Good Friday)	3.00pm St. Margaret's, Pegswood	
17 April (Easter Day)	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	
24 April	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
1 May	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
8 May	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
15 May	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
22 May	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
29 May	10.15am St. Margaret's, Pegswood	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal

Morning Service Wednesdays at 9.30am in St. Margaret's, Pegswood

VICAR'S LETTER



This is the first time I have contributed an article to the Longhirst Leader hoping that by the time this short piece is published it will have become out of date. We are all aware of the terrible situation that has been unfolding in Ukraine in recent weeks through the extensive media coverage it has received. Apart from all those who are suffering directly from the war, be they combatants, Ukraine civilians who are staying put or those who are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, it must also be a terribly anxious time for

Ukraine citizens resident in the UK and other countries wondering how their families back home are coping. There may also be Russian citizens in the UK who are wondering why their government has created this appalling situation, who worry about what happens next, especially if they themselves have relatives in the Russian armed forces or have relatives who have been bravely taking to the streets to protest against the war at great risk to themselves. As I say, I hope that by the time you are reading this, the war will have stopped, peace will have broken out and both sides will have agreed a just settlement. As I write, however, that remains a slender hope rather than an expectation. I would not be surprised if many of us have been responding generously, in one way or another, to the appeals from those charitable organisations which are seeking to support the huge numbers of refugees currently streaming out of Ukraine. Nevertheless, in the face of such a huge catastrophe like this there may seem to be so little else we can offer other than our concern and our hopes for peace. However we can also pray. In our church services and other meetings we have been saying the following prayer given to us by our church leaders, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Please use it as you think best.

"God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those who have power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen."

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)
February	Ticket No. 217 Enid Hogg	Ticket No. 168 Ron Woodcock	Ticket No. 177 Margaret Lediard <i>for Ben</i>
March	Ticket No.203 Maureen Lowes	Ticket No.75 Linda Rudd	Ticket No.223 Sibell Pigg <i>for Anna</i>

Mike Elphick (c)

FREE LAWN RAKER/SCARIFIER

We have a Qualcast 32cm 400W mains electric lawnraker/scarifier with grass box in good working order suitable for a small garden free to a good home. Please contact Claire Coates (k).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

6	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
9	Saturday	10.30am - 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall 10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n) (r)
15	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
20	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
22	Friday	Late blue bin collection	
23	Saturday	10am-12noon & 2-4pm Wildlife Watch Day at Rose Cottage (see P5)	(f)

MAY

4	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
5	Thursday	6.30pm Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
6	Friday	Late blue bin collection	
13	Friday	Deadline for April / May Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
14	Saturday	10.30am - 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall 10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n) (r)
18	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	
20	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)

REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- 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 1 April, 29 April and 27 May

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 4 June - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community Picnic

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival Weekend

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)

Lunch 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)

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:

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