



LONGHIRST LEADER

December 2025 & January 2026

WHAT'S ON...

Advent Toy Service

Sunday 30 November 2pm St John's Church

Advent carols and collection of gifts for children and teenagers in less well-off families in the Meadow Well area of North Shields. If you are unable to come to the service, gifts can be left with Linda Mowbray at 10 Longhirst Village.

December Lunch Club

Wednesday 3 December 11.45am Longhirst Village Hall

Looking forward to seeing everyone for our special Christmas lunch. If anyone would like to come who hasn't already said so, please let us know. We need to have attendance confirmed a few days beforehand for catering purposes.

Cost £7.50 (cash please)

Please contact Helen McCabe by text or ring 07964 159957.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6 December 10.30am till 12 noon Longhirst Village Hall

Entrance £3 including a drink and mince pie or scone

Bacon butties £4

Our famous hamper raffle, well-stocked bottle tombola and other stalls

All proceeds to St John's Church, Longhirst

Christmas Pub Night

Friday 12 December 8-11pm Longhirst Village Hall

All welcome to our seasonal, social pub night

Longhirst Colliery Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 13 December 10.30am – 12.30pm

Longhirst Colliery residents would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

Please come along to celebrate and catch up with friends at the Colliery Hall

Cuppa and cake £4 Raffle & Christmas Table

Christmas Eve at St John's Church

Carol Service with choir at 6pm followed by traditional mince pies and sherry

Midnight Mass Service at 11.30pm.

January Coffee Morning

Saturday 10 January 10.30am – 12 noon Longhirst Village Hall

All welcome - offers of baking are always welcome too!

Anyone who would like to find out about joining the rota, please contact Helen McCabe

LONGHIRST NEWS

Welcome to our new residents

Welcome to all our new residents who have recently moved into Longhirst. We hope you are settling in well and that you will enjoy your new homes and village life.

Longhirst Wildlife & Community Trust Events

“Gin and Wilding” talk Tuesday 2nd December 2pm at Longhirst Village Hall

This is now almost fully booked, but if you wish to grab one of the two remaining places, please email paulinegilbertson@gmail.com (first come, first served)

Passionate About Ponds! Saturday 7 February 2026, 2.00pm, Longhirst Village Hall

Join us for a talk on POND LIFE by Dr Mike Jeffries

Ponds are so familiar that we take them for granted but they are wildlife hotspots.

Northumberland has some very special ponds and the landscape in our part of the county is unusually rich in ponds and pools.

Email paulinegilbertson@gmail.com to reserve a place. £3 (cash please) per person, payable on the door. Under 18s free of charge.

Parish Association (Village Hall)

Andrew Robson (Secretary)

The Hall continues to be a well-used resource, and we are keen to keep improving and offering more. To that end, it has been decided to waive the hire charges for Pub Night to support as much as we can, this great initiative.

There is a new router in operation - code is on the Sports Hall noticeboard. Wi-Fi speeds are now much improved as a result.

Regular users will see that volunteers have given the storeroom and kitchen a good clear out and tidy.

Village Hall library and jigsaw room

The library and jigsaw room can be accessed when the Hall is open for particular events, though, please try not to disturb these groups too much if you do pop in.

- Coffee mornings 2nd Saturday of the month (10am-noon)
- Fayres As advertised
- U3A Monthly meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month (2-4pm)
- U3A Coffee morning 1st Monday of the month (10am-noon)
- Lunch Club 1st Wednesday of the month (11am-1pm)

If anyone would like to start an actual library group with set opening hours, and volunteers to open/close the Hall etc; please let us know. Like the Pub Night, there would be no charge for this community activity.

Sadly, Mo Dewar has stepped down as a trustee – we would like to wish her well and thank her for all her contributions over the past years.

Traffic Mirror

You may have noticed a new large traffic mirror on the corner opposite the church. This will help pedestrians crossing the road here. Many thanks to:

- David Jordon who let us put the mirror on his land. David also provided the new posts
- Jason Morrel who designed a bracket and fitted the mirror
- Sibell Pigg who purchased the large mirror for the village

Open Gardens and Flower Festival 2026

It might be dark and cold outside but it's time to start planning for Open Gardens 2026! The dates are going to be 4 & 5 July. We will bring you more information in the next edition of the Longhirst Leader or you can contact longhirstopengardens@gmail.com

County Council News

Cllr Ed Dungait

I've been pleased to attend Parish Council meetings and follow up on various requests lately. Some are quickly sorted out, but unfortunately others take a bit more time. For example, the ownership of the road down Longhirst Colliery is proving to be a very troublesome puzzle, but I will keep at it in the hope of an answer. Thank you to Bill Climson for your help and information.

The speed survey results from May did not show a significant speeding issue from the data, which means that NCC will simply not offer comprehensive speed reduction obstacles. However, the petition was a very good one and well supported which showed the strength of feeling throughout the village, so thank you to those who participated. As a result, there are some more minor options being offered and I will work with Jill (Lead Petitioner) and the Parish Council to achieve whatever we can over the coming weeks.

There are clearly standard issues to sort out too like maintaining signs, repairing the chicane and repairing the bollard at the church, which I will address.

As the winter weather arrives there will inevitably be more risks on our roads and paths. Please report any issues on FixMyStreet or call 0345 600 6400. Calls outside of office hours are for emergency cases only and will transfer you to the Fire & Rescue Service. If issues persist, please get in touch with me to chase up.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Traffic Petition Update

Jill McManus (designated Lead Petitioner)

The Longhirst traffic petition was presented at the Castle Morpeth Community Partnership meeting on 17 November. Petitioners only get 5 minutes to speak so it was hard to do justice to all our traffic issues. I know some people will be disappointed that we are not likely to get major traffic calming measures but hopefully we will see some improvements. We will have to wait and see...

Parish Council Report

Glen Fahy

Thank you to the Trustees of Longhirst Colliery Hall who welcomed the Parish Council with tea, coffee and biscuits for the November meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Co-option of a Parish Councillor David Jordon was elected to the Parish Council to fill the remaining vacancy.

Planning Application to remove the faulty render to gable end wall at 8 Stable Close was supported by the Council.

The Council accepted the application for change of use from an agricultural building to residential at Middle Moor farm but rejected the development of a self-build residential dwelling house at Middle Moor farm.

Churchyard Maintenance Discussion took place concerning correspondence received about the maintenance of the church grounds. Whilst the Parish Council currently donate £700 per annum towards the maintenance of the grounds an increase could not be considered without detailed invoices. It was made clear that this is not within the remit of the Parish Council and was for the church themselves to resolve.

This was followed by a discussion in respect of donations made to various groups. It was agreed to maintain the existing arrangements. Any new groups or an increase in the amount donated to existing groups would be discussed and agreed at a Parish Council meeting.

Litter bin at Longhirst Colliery bus stop It was agreed the clerk would purchase a bin. This will be delivered to the Chair and installed.

Speeding through the village This issue was extensively discussed during the public question section and will be discussed again depending on outcome of the Community Partnership Meeting on 17 November. The Parish Council agreed to reimburse Sibell Pigg for the cost of the mirror at the Pegswood junction.

Phone Box BT own the phone box outside the Village Hall and have agreed to re-furbish and re-paint it. However, this work may have to wait until spring when the weather permits.

Maintenance of public rights of way The blocked rights of way in the woodland behind Longhirst Colliery have been cut back.

Remembrance Sunday The Parish Council along with representatives from the Army, the Royal British Legion, the Parish Association, and Longhirst Colliery each laid a wreath at the War Memorial. £62 was collected for the Poppy Appeal.

Next meeting Thursday 8 January 2026.

Longhirst Hundred Club Draw Results

Month	First prize	Second prize	Third prize
October	Linda Mowbray	Diane Milmore	Helen McCabe
November	David Squires	Hazel Ponton	Louise Bassett

DIARY DATES

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

DECEMBER DIARY

2	Tuesday	2.00pm	LWCT talk "Gin & Wilding"
3	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club
5	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library
6	Saturday	10.30am	Christmas Fayre
12	Friday	8.30pm	Pub night
13	Saturday	10am	Litter Picking
13	Saturday	10.30am-12.30pm	Christmas Coffee Morning Longhirst Colliery
27	Saturday		Late bin collection (Blue, recycling)

JANUARY DIARY

2	Friday		Late bin collection (Black, general)
7	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club
8	Thursday	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
9	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library
10	Saturday	10.00am 10.30am-12noon	Litter picking Coffee morning
30	Friday	9.30-10.00am	Mobile library

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Date	Time	Service
7 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
14 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
21 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
22 December	6.00pm	Carol Service at St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood
24 December	6.00pm	Carol Service, St John's, followed by sherry and mince pies
24 December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass, St John's, Longhirst
28 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
4 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
11 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
18 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
25 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal

LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pilates	Fridays	9.30-10.30am	charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com
Pilates	Tuesdays	5.45-7.00pm	Jillates Pilates www.jillates.co.uk
U3A	Check Village website for information		www.longhirstvillage.co.uk

Reminder: The fish van from Eyemouth stops by the war memorial every Friday around 9.15am

CONTACTS

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
Churchwarden & Parochial Church Council	Heather Jackson	07756 690027	siriusa1998@aol.com
Church website	https://longhirstchurch.chessck.co.uk/		
Longhirst Parish Association	Janet Quinn	07791543657	quinnjanet@sky.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
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