

LONGHIRST LEADER

June / July 2022

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Everyone is very welcome to join in the following events.

Friday 3 June, 7.30pm. Jubilee Pub Night in the Village Hall

(This replaces the regular monthly Pub Night)

Saturday 4 June, 1-4pm. Community Jubilee Picnic in the Village Hall



Please supply your own food, crockery and cutlery. Either bring your own drinks or purchase them from the Pub Night organisers who will be in attendance and are adding a 'Special Pimms' to their selection.

If you would like to picnic outside you will need to bring your own table, chairs or blanket.

Dressing in **Red**, White and **Blue** (with or without a crown or tiara) would be good, but is not essential.

The front of the Hall will be reserved for disabled parking only.

Photos wanted. If you have any photos of previous Village Jubilee celebrations for a display in the Village Hall please contact Allison Tordoff (790364, wadders40@gmail.com) or Sally Marr (790196, sally.marr@btinternet.com).

The Jubilee Organising Group

COLLIERY CORNER

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room.

Saturday 4 June, 4pm.

Bring out the Red, White & Blue

Let's get together to celebrate this auspicious occasion with an amazing community event. Enjoy a wonderful 'Jubilee Tea' with everyone contributing their favourite teatime treat. Tea/coffee and soft drinks provided. Bring your own tippie. Prize Draw and Quiz.

You don't have to live at Longhirst Colliery to join in, everyone is welcome.

RSVP to Bill Dryden (07718205920) please.

Norah Dryden, Secretary, Longhirst Colliery Residents Association

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

Most of you will already know about the 18 and 19 of June; indeed, many of you have already volunteered to help in one way or another. Here's a brief outline of the weekend:



Friday 17 June 'Songs of Praise Service' in St John's Church at 7pm.

As well as joining in the service this will be an opportunity to see the stunning Flower Festival arrangements at their very best.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June, 11am to 5pm

16 gardens will open in the Village and at Lawson Villas starting at 11am. (There may even be a bonus garden or two.) The charge this year will be £7.50 per person per day. Accompanied children are free and well-behaved dogs are welcome.

The North-East N Gauge Model Railway group will again set up their exhibition layout in Cherryburn garage over the whole Weekend.

Barnacre garden will not only host stalls of plants, local honey, beeswax candles and arts and crafts but also live music.

As always, there will be delicious Home-Made Food served at the Village Hall and Ice Cream will be on sale after lunch in the front garden of No 7 Main Street. The gardens close at 5pm.



Live Music. The KEVI student steel band will perform on Saturday morning from around 11.30am and again at about 1pm. On Sunday, music will be provided by 'Fellside Brass' who will perform at around 11.15am and again at about 12noon. A grant from Northumberland County Council's Jubilee fund has enabled us to provide this.

Sunday morning Communion Service at 9.30am in St John's Church. This will be another opportunity to view the stunning flower festival.

Royal Memorabilia. If you have any royal memorabilia we can borrow for a display in the Church please contact Carol Robson (f).

Over hanging vegetation and parking in the Village. Many visitors will be walking around the Village during the Open Gardens Weekend. It would be very helpful if any trees and bushes that overhang the pavements are cut back and it will be safer crossing the road if cars are not parked on Main Street between 11am and 5pm on both days. Those of you who have no alternative parking spots are welcome to park around Howarth Cottage where there is room for 8 cars or you can use the Park and Ride car park at North East Grains.

Volunteers. If anyone else would like to volunteer to help with the Weekend, please contact Jill McManus on (01670) 791536.

Jill McManus (o) and Mike Elphick (c)

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The Hall has recently obtained a licence to show films as long as we do not advertise them beyond the immediate surrounding area. The U3A organised a film show a few weeks ago and it was well attended by their members and a few local people. Now that the licence is in place, it is open to anyone in the Village who would like to organise such an event in the Village Hall which has access to a video projector, screen and speakers.

Progress on the Lottery funded developments at the Village Hall has been mixed. Costs have increased significantly since the original estimates were sent to the Lottery towards the end of last year. Also, slight movement has been noted in the Reading Room floor where it abuts the front wall. We know that the wall is damp, and we have been advised to insert a new support beam under the existing joists which may also need to be treated for wet rot.

To add to our woes, the County Council's Planning Department have taken the view that we must apply for Listed Building Consent even though none of our proposals will involve any changes to the building that can be seen from the road.

On the bright side, the Lottery have accepted that our costs have increased and that the Reading Room floor must be repaired. They have therefore increased the amount of the grant and have agreed to fund reasonable costs for an architect to help prepare our application for Listed Building Consent. This will take time, so our plans to undertake the work during late June and July have had to be delayed. It may well be September or later before the work can start. Watch this space!

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the Parish Council AGM held on 5 May the Chairman, Peter Coates, presented his annual report. In brief:

Firstly he referred to the sad death of Gill Featonby, a long standing member of the Parish Council and other Longhirst institutions (see page 4), and the recent fatal accident in the grounds of Longhirst Hall.

He then thanked Helyn Douglas as Clerk to the Council for everything she has done and her expertise in ensuring the Council complies with modern legal requirements and becomes fully responsive to the needs of residents.

He also mentioned Mike Elphick who, despite the loss of his wife Jill, continues to do so much for the Parish; Anne and Lawrence Carey for all their work in maintaining the attractive appearance of the centre of Longhirst Village; the litter pickers for their monthly clean ups in all weathers; the Open Gardens organisers for once more rising to the challenge of arranging another action packed weekend and everyone who offers to become involved with arranging social events (including the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee) and running our local organisations.

Major events last year included the ongoing Covid crisis, storms Arwen and Malik and the consequent damage, power outages and water supply cuts and the lychgate at the Church being very badly damaged by a speeding vehicle. Ongoing planning issues included Longhirst Hall/ Dairy Lane and Domino's Field. The recent resurfacing work along part of Station Road was most welcome but flooding on Ashington Road, the footpath on Butchers Lane and the remainder of Station Road are outstanding problems. He was also delighted with the progress being made in setting up the new Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust (although the various administrative hurdles are proving to be extremely frustrating!).

Finally, he thanked Chris Marr for his efforts in updating the Parish website and for preparing the Parish Council Plan which is available on the site and outlines the Council's priorities for the foreseeable future.

Other news from the routine two monthly meeting included the following:

A meeting is being arranged with Tilhill, the Woodland Trust's contractors for the maintenance of Paddock Wood, to discuss their planned work for the future.

A report has been submitted to the County Council's Storm Arwen Inquiry outlining our experiences in the aftermath.

NCC have removed around 500 storm damaged trees from the wood at The Colliery but some replanting is planned.

The developer has appealed against the refusal of planning permission for new housing in Domino's Field and the outcome is awaited.

Richard Tordoff's defibrillator training courses have proved to be very successful and more are being considered.

NCC have been asked to clear the footway along the front of the cricket field.

A litter bin will be fitted to the bus shelter at The Colliery entrance.

NCC are apparently prepared to fit CCTV cameras to deter fly tipping at hot spots on the Ashington Road.

A tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is to be planted in Paddock Wood.

The Jubilee Picnic is now being held in the Village Hall.

The Parish Council agreed to donate £50 towards a gift voucher in support of the annual Church Fete.

The **next meeting** will be held in the **Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 7 July** and all residents are welcome to attend.

Peter Coates (k)

OBITUARIES

GILL FEATONBY



It is with great sadness that we report the death on 18 April of Gill Featonby aged 77 years. She and David moved to Middle Moor in Longhirst in 1976 where she lived until moving to William Turner Court in Morpeth in 2018 after being diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia.

Gill contributed a great deal to the community. She was a member of the Parish Council for many years, Secretary of the Garden Association for nearly 25 years, Chairman of the Parish Association from its inception around 2000 and was one of the initial chefs for the Luncheon Club, retiring only when forced to do so by ill health. In recognition of her work Gill was made Honorary Life President of

both the Parish Association and the Garden Association. Life in Longhirst would not have been the same without her!

NORMAN TURNER

Sadly, we also have to report that Norman Turner died in Cramlington Hospital on 12 May aged 88 years. He lived in Ulgham but played badminton and bowls in Longhirst and, with the help of his wife Sheila, judged the Arts and Crafts and Junior sections of the Village Show for many years. He will be sadly missed by Sheila, their two children, two grandchildren and all those who knew him.

JIMMY LILICO - 95 YEARS YOUNG

Longhirst resident Jimmy Lilico celebrated his 95th birthday recently.

Those of you who walk down the lane near his house, Inglenook, will be used to seeing him sweeping the path and clearing leaves.

Jimmy lives independently and despite being almost blind, continues to do all his own gardening, shopping and cooking, with a little help from friends and neighbours.

We hope you had a very happy birthday Jimmy and wish you all the best for the coming year.



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)
April	Ticket No. 179 Maureen Hannard	Ticket No. 51 Peter Coates	Ticket No. 203 Gordon Ferguson <i>for Grace</i>
May	Ticket No. 147 Jules Rickard	Ticket No. 63 David Jordon	Ticket No. 98 Dennis Hodges <i>for Christopher</i>

Mike Elphick (c)

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Many thanks to Carol Robson and her helpers who made the Wildlife Watch Day a great success and raised £330. There were three sightings of red squirrels (see photo) and over 20 species of birds were viewed including Willow Tit, Long Tailed Tits, Siskin, Brambling, Bullfinch, Yellow Hammer, Nuthatch and Tree Creeper.



June and July's Sunday services are:-

Date	Holy Communion	Evening Service
5 June	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
12 June	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
19 June	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
26 June	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
3 July	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
10 July	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
17 July	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
24 July	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
31 July	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



As the nation is preparing to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee I am wondering how Britain's longest reigning monarch will be remembered by future generations. Whatever that may be there can be little doubt about her enduring popularity today. If we were to define the word charisma to mean "the power of attraction" then Queen Elizabeth has it in abundance. She will always draw a crowd, and this is surely reflected in the popular enthusiasm for celebrating the Jubilee, not least in Longhirst.

As the Jubilee draws ever closer, I expect there will be numerous broadcasts on TV and radio about her life and times to enhance the celebrations. It is well known that Queen Elizabeth has devoted her life to the service of her country and in my mind there are two illuminating images of her, bookending her life so to speak, which may illustrate this and go some way to account for the enduring respect and affection she commands.

The first is a photo from 1945 showing the young princess Elizabeth wearing the uniform of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. Her enlistment made her the first female "royal" to have become an active member of our armed forces, and the last surviving head of state to have served in World War Two. Apparently, it took more than a year of debate before her family gave in to her wish to join up. She was driven by a determination to do her bit, as it were, for the common good and not to shy away from getting her hands dirty. During her time of service, in which she both drove and maintained military vehicles, she earned the nickname "Princess Motor Mechanic".

The second image is very recent but no less poignant. I am referring to the image of her sitting, with great dignity, masked and by herself in the choir stalls at St. George's Chapel, Windsor during the funeral service for her late husband The Duke of Edinburgh. As you may imagine I have sat at funeral services with many families over the past couple of years who, because of social distancing regulations, have not been able to mourn their loved ones in the way they would have wished. Some of you may also have experienced this.

Queen Elizabeth, unswerving in her attention to her duties as monarch, regards her role as a calling by God and this is implicit in her position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. On that very difficult occasion she was concerned not just to obey the rules but also to exercise leadership and set an example by being seen to be abiding by the rules and thereby demonstrate and maintain that same characteristic solidarity with everyone else which drove her all those years ago to serve in the WATS. It is this personal integrity she brings to the institution of monarchy which will remain with me as not only one of her most admirable and inspiring qualities, most worthy of celebration, but also essential surely, to the ongoing credibility of royalty in the modern world.

A special prayer for the Jubilee,

“Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
and for the example of loving and faithful service
which she has shown among us.

Help us to follow her example of dedication
and to commit our lives to you and to one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.”

I hope you enjoy whatever celebration you may be joining or have planned for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

John Park (b)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE (There are no changes to the bin collection days over the Jubilee Weekend)

1	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
3	Friday	7.30pm Jubilee Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
4	Saturday	1 - 4pm Community Picnic in the Village Hall	(h)
		4pm Jubilee Tea in the Colliery Reading Room	(m)
11	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n)
		10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r)
15	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
17	Friday	7pm Songs of Praise at St. John’s Church	(b)
18	Saturday	11am – 5pm Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival Weekend	(o)
19	Sunday	11am – 5pm Open Gardens and Church Flower Festival Weekend	(o)

JULY

6	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
7	Thursday	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
9	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n)
		10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r)
15	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
15	Friday	Deadline for August / September Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
20	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)

REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Pound Fitness Class in the Village Hall on Tuesdays, 6.30 – 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 22 June and 20 July

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)**

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)**

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