

# LONGHIRST LEADER

## August / September 2024

### NEW COMPILER(S) NEEDED FOR THE LONGHIRST LEADER

I regret to report that no one has offered to replace me as compiler of the Leader when Peter and I move to Morpeth in the near future.

There are only six editions a year to prepare. Contributors e-mail me their entries and I simply format them and sometimes add illustrations. I also prepare the Diary. The rest of the Editorial Group then proof read it and we meet to finalise the copy. To make it easier and more flexible the job could easily be shared. I would like to think that you find the Leader both useful and interesting and I have found producing it rewarding, not least because I have felt more involved in Village affairs and have come to know many more residents as a consequence.

If you think you may be interested and would like to discuss what is involved, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will help as much as I can in the handover.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Claire Coates (k)

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



The Macmillan Coffee Morning is being held on **Saturday 28 September** from 10.30am – 12noon in the Village Hall. Entrance will be £5 per person to include coffee/tea, homemade scones and cake.

Please come along and bring your family and friends.

All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Linda Rudd (i)

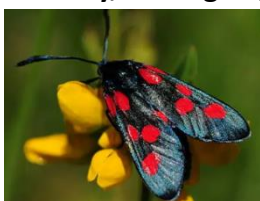
### LONGHIRST WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY TRUST FREE EVENTS

The following **free** events are planned in August:

**Sunday, 11 August, 10am –1pm. West Chevington Nature Reserve.** Join us for a guided walk with Project Officer, Lee Rankin, around this Northumberland Wildlife Trust reserve.



**Tuesday, 20 August, 9am. Scotch Gill Woods Moth Event.** Local naturalist Mark Welfare will set a moth trap the night before and show us his findings. An opportunity to get close up and personal with a variety of beautiful and often elusive moths. If time permits we may also look for day-flying moths in the woods.



If you would like to book either of these, please contact Pauline Gilbertson at [paulinegilbertson@gmail.com](mailto:paulinegilbertson@gmail.com) or 07717 224072. Lifts will be available if needed.

We are currently busy planning future events and activities for the next year which will be highlighted in the Trust newsletters and here in the Leader so **Watch This Space!**

Kim Woolhead (y)

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



### Longhirst Parish Council

**Northumbria Police:** residents are able to sign up for regular updates via the Northumbria connected website: <https://www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk/>

**Residents' associations:** Longhirst Colliery residents have painted the bus shelter and trimmed some of the overgrowth. There was nothing to update from either Longhirst Hall or Micklewood.

**The Forge at Ulgham:** The Community Benefit Society is discussing options with a local property developer to retain part of the premises as a Community Pub/Hub and use the rest for housing.

**Finances:** The Parish Council annual audit papers have been submitted and are available on the website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst/documents/audit>.

**Community Skip:** A skip was provided free of charge in the village, intended for use by those who would find it difficult to access the formal waste centre. It was a reasonable success and may well be repeated in the future.

**Projector for Longhirst Village Hall:** A proposal was agreed to install a mid-range overhead projector and pull-down screen in the Village Hall's Reading Room. The cost is approximately £1,600. The Parish Council will provide the funds and the Parish Association will handle the installation.

**New benches for the War Memorial area:** Three hardwood benches have been purchased at a discount price of £790 (ex-display models from the Chelsea Flower Show). Richard Tordoff offered to fit these but may require some help - anyone willing to offer should get in touch him (h). The existing benches will be relocated elsewhere: either across the road or possibly in Paddock Wood.

**Paddock Wood path improvements:** Issues remain regarding the maintenance of the site. Sub-contractors for the Woodland Trust have cut back the paths but also cut the flower meadow too early, preventing re-seeding. We have also not received any response to our request to improve the paths (at our own cost). Councillors are deeply dissatisfied with the lack of engagement from the Woodland Trust despite our numerous attempts to contact them. The Chair and Vice Chair will write a very firm letter setting out our intention to carry out the path improvements unless we hear back to the contrary.

**Ashington Road flooding:** No work on either the ditch clearing or the new drainage pipework has yet taken place, despite a promise given by the Highways Department at the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council (LAC) meeting in November 2023. If this work is not done by the end of September, Peter Coates intends to return to the LAC to complain.

**Potland Park:** The gates and fences have been removed and this is leading to an increase in fly tipping. The new bridleways have also not been reinstated. Glen Fahy will arrange another site meeting with an NCC Countryside Officer to discuss this.

**Gardens along the Village street:** Councillors discussed ways of recreating the historic look of the gardens along the main street in the Village but felt there was not enough interest behind this from residents so these ideas will not be pursued at this time.

**Digital switch over:** Copper landlines are being replaced by digital services across the country, though no households will lose their landline until a suitable broadband service is available to them. Alncom has been appointed by central government to carry out this upgrade work locally in Northumberland. Alncom have said they are aiming to complete the work in Longhirst by the end of next year.

**Future topics for discussion:** The future of the old Butterwell Coal Road restoration work now that Sanders Plant & Waste has gone into administration; improved timetable signage at the bus stop outside

the Village Hall; resolution of the outstanding planning issues at Station Cottages; digital/online safety issues for Councillors.

**County Councillor David Towns:** Although unable to attend the meeting, Councillor David Towns offered to meet separately with the Chair. Peter Coates will take up this offer and raise the lack of progress on Ashington Road.

**Open Gardens:** The Parish Council agreed to send congratulations to the Open Gardens team for organising another hugely successful weekend. Colleen Anderson

## ULGHAM ROAD CLOSURE

The main road through Ulgham is expected to be closed from 12 – 16 August between 8am and 5pm. Diversions will via the C125 (Linton) and A1068 (Coast) roads.

## OPEN GARDENS AND FLOWER FESTIVAL 2024

Once again, the Open Gardens weekend was a resoundingly successful event and a brilliant effort from the Longhirst community who contributed in so many different ways.

A big thanks to

- Everyone who visited the gardens – on your own or with family and friends
- Volunteers who helped with catering, stewarding, publicity, car parking, ticket sales, selling ice creams and everything else
- The stall holders and the model railway club



- The flower people in the Church
- All those who generously donated in cash, kind or cakes
- And, of course, the gardeners who put so much work into getting their gardens ready and opening them for visitors.

We had over 700 visitors and in total raised just over £7,000 for the Church and Village Hall. The feedback from visitors was all very positive – and even the weather was kind.

Photos and visitor comments are on our website [www.longhirstopengardens.org](http://www.longhirstopengardens.org) if you would like to take a look.

Jill McManus (o)



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The final elements of the Village Hall redevelopment programme have mostly been completed including the repair of the outside lights and the fencing-in of the ventilation equipment at the rear of the building. The few items that remain will be undertaken during August when there is less activity in the Hall. These will include the replacement of the windowsills and some of the skirting board in the Reading Room and the final boxing-in of all the electrical switchgear.

A pull-down screen over the mantelpiece and a fixed ceiling projector will be installed during the month in addition to minor decorative touching up. This will bring a successful conclusion to the redevelopment programme that has been in progress over the past couple of years.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees



## TWO NEW CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

A new weekly **Pilates class** is due to start at the Village Hall on 6 September from 9.30 – 10.30am each Friday morning. It will be a class designed with back health in mind, helping you to build a strong back and core foundation.

£8 per class, pay as you go. Suitable for beginners up to intermediate level.

Anyone wishing to book a space or who would like more information should contact Charlotte Wood, e:mail [charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com](mailto:charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com), Tel: 07506 464100, or visit [www.charlottewoodpilates.com](http://www.charlottewoodpilates.com)

Helen Potts has started a twice monthly **sewing group** at the Village Hall from 10am – 2pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Anyone interested in joining the group or requiring more information should contact Helen, e:mail [helenpotts65@gmail.com](mailto:helenpotts65@gmail.com). Mike Elphick (c)

## LONGHIRST'S WAR HORSES



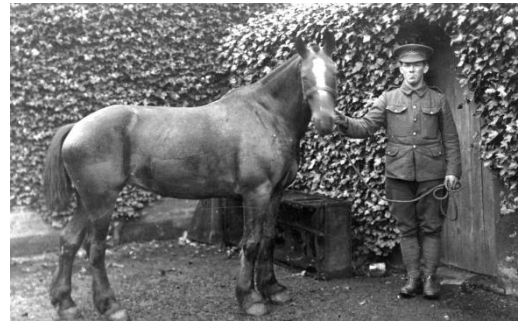
It is 85 years since the British Army completed the two decade process of mechanisation, replacing cavalry with tanks for armoured regiments and using the internal combustion engine for the movement of soldiers and the transport of artillery and supplies. Consequently, more than one generation has grown up without being aware of the part played by the horse in warfare up to 1939.

This changed between 2011 and 2014 when a stage play, a documentary and a critically-acclaimed feature film about War Horses were produced. The military horse's wartime contribution and sacrifices were given proper recognition.

Longhirst village, and a member of a local farming family, both played a significant part in the War Horse story.

At the start of the Crimean War in 1854, the Duke of Portland provided a Lane Farm field immediately north of the village (recently named Domino's Field after an elderly horse that lived there, to the delight of local children) to be used for the assembly of horses requisitioned by the Army.

They were then sent to one of four main camps in the UK before going into service at home and overseas.



The Duke also built the row of houses next to the field, known locally as the Barracks, to house soldiers used in the exercise. Officers were billeted in Longhirst Hall. The British Army took 2,000 horses to the Crimea; 200 survived.

The process resumed for the Boer War of 1899-1902. Over half a million horses were sent to South Africa from various parts of the world, including 50,000 from the USA and 43,000 from Australia. The Age of Steam produced an early precursor of mechanisation in South Africa, where the Army used steam road tractors to move supplies.

During World War One, the Army Remount Department (active from 1887 to 1942) was responsible for the training of horses and mules. Of the three million horses in Britain, about a third were

working animals. Some of these will have been for domestic purposes; Longhirst Hall's stables were quite modest when compared with other country houses such as Belsay and Chesters.



*Four officers, two dogs and one wary cat at Longhirst*

Before 1914 the Army had 25,000 horses and this rose to 600,000 by 1916. By the end of the war around a million horses had entered Army service. They were used by the Cavalry and mounted Infantry for the hauling of supplies and artillery and for evacuation of the wounded.

Major-General Sir John Moore KCMG, a member of a local farming family, was born at Longhirst in 1864. Two former Longhirst farmers, Bobbie and Jimmy Moore, were his nephews. He was Director of the Army Veterinary Service during World War One and its Colonel Commandant from 1932-34. He received the Queen’s Medal for service in South Africa, a knighthood during World War One and the French Legion d’Honneur in 1919. He died in 1940.



A 1900 illustration of a Lancer at the Charge in South Africa

In papers published in the Twenties, he described animal wastage in the Boer War as appalling; he meticulously counted every horse, noting that of 518,794 animals sent 347,007 were killed, and this led him to set about improving the Veterinary service. By World War One it had 18,000 soldiers. Specialist horse hospitals were established and he described the service’s objective as “to cure and not to kill”. He also said that “sick animals should receive modern scientific attention so as to ensure that as few as possible are lost.” The British Army Veterinary service was considered to be better equipped and trained than that of all the other armies in the war. One can only hope that the horses agreed.

Peter McKenzie

(using material from the Ian Thompson archive in the care of Longhirst Parish Association)

**Footnote:** It has been suggested that we rename “Domino’s Field” as “War Horse Field”. There is every reason to celebrate our heritage and I would welcome your comments please.

Peter Coates (k)

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



Sadly, the first advertisement put out by the Diocese of Newcastle for a new part-time vicar of Longhirst was unsuccessful in attracting applicants.

The post will be re-advertised.

### August and September Sunday Services

Date	Time	Service
4 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John’s, Longhirst
11 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew’s, Bothal
18 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John’s, Longhirst
25 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew’s, Bothal
1 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John’s, Longhirst
8 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew’s, Bothal
15 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John’s, Longhirst
22 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew’s, Bothal
29 September	10.15am	Holy Communion at St Margaret’s Chapel, Pegswood

Mike Elphick (c)

## THE LONGHIRST HUNDRED CLUB

The winners of the last two 'Hundred Club' draws are:

Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£60)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£40)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£20)
June	Ticket No. 69 <i>Linda Rudd for Robert</i>	Ticket No. 129 Andy Robson	Ticket No. 177 Gordon Ferguson
July	Ticket No. 119 <i>Craig Penfold for Gabrielle</i>	Ticket No. 205 Enid Hogg	Ticket No. 21 <i>Adrienne Dobson for Charlotte</i>

If you would like to join the Hundred Club please contact Mike Elphick (c).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### AUGUST

7	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
10	Saturday	10am 10.30am – 12noon	Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (n)
11	Sunday	10am – 1pm	LWCT guided walk around West Chevington Nature Reserve (free)	(y)
12 - 16	Mon - Fri	8am – 5pm	Ulgham Main Road closed	
16	Friday	9.30 – 10.15am 7.30pm	Mobile Library in the Village Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
20	Tuesday	9am	LWCT free Moth Event at Scotch Gill Woods	(y)
21	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
27	Tuesday		Late food bin collection	
29	Thursday		Late garden waste bin	
30	Friday		Late black bin collection	

### SEPTEMBER

4	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
5	Thursday	7pm	Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall.	(a)
13	Friday	9.30 - 10.15am	Mobile Library in the Village  <b>Deadline for Oct / Nov Longhirst Leader</b> e-mail to <a href="mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com">clairecoates32@gmail.com</a>	Ed. Group
14	Saturday	10am 10.30am – 12noon	Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (n)
18	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
20	Friday	7.30pm	Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
28	Saturday	10.30am – 12noon	Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Village hall	(i)

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on page 5
- Pilates in Village Hall on Fridays, 9.30 – 10.30am starting 6 September.  
Contact [charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com](mailto:charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com)
- Sewing Group in Village Hall on first and third Tuesdays of the month, 10am – 2pm.  
Contact [helenpotts65@gmail.com](mailto:helenpotts65@gmail.com)
- 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

## CONTACT DETAILS

**For more information about the various activities and events mentioned in this Newsletter contact:-**

**Parish Council Clerk** – Helyn Douglas 01670 826803 / email : [longhirstpc@gmail.com](mailto:longhirstpc@gmail.com) (a)

**County Councillor** – David Towns 07985 012012 / email : [david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk) (g)

**Vicar** - (b)

**Churchwarden** - Heather Jackson 07756 690027/ email : [siriusa1998@aol.com](mailto:siriusa1998@aol.com) (d)

**PCC Secretary** – Mike Elphick 01670 790764 / email : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)

**Longhirst Parish Association** – Janet Quinn 01670 790630 / email : [quinnjanet@sky.com](mailto:quinnjanet@sky.com)(q)

**Village Hall Bookings** - Mike Elphick 01670 790764 / email : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)

**Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust**- Kim Woolhead 07749 811937 / email : [kim.woolhead@gmail.com](mailto:kim.woolhead@gmail.com) (y)

**Lunch Club** – Linda Rudd 01670 790116 / email : [barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk](mailto:barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk) (i)

**Longhirst Hundred Club** - Mike Elphick 01670 790764 / email : [mike.elphick1@gmail.com](mailto:mike.elphick1@gmail.com) (c)

**Parish Voluntary Litter Clearance** – Chris Lediard 01670 790268 / email : [chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk) (r)

**Village Coffee Mornings** – Helen McCabe 01670 790494 / email : [mccabe\\_paul1@sky.com](mailto:mccabe_paul1@sky.com) (n)

**Village Pub Nights** – Allison and Richard Tordoff 01670 790364 / email : [rtordoffs@gmail.com](mailto:rtordoffs@gmail.com) (h)

**Open Gardens Weekend** – Jill McManus 07837 525634 / email : [jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk) (o)

**Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room bookings** – Mary Climson 07727 198108 / [maryclimson67@gmail.com](mailto:maryclimson67@gmail.com) (j)

**Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings** – Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group, Paul Brannan 07961 937304,

Carole Neesam 07488 286434 / email: [badrsg@btinternet.com](mailto:badrsg@btinternet.com) (s)

**Village Website** – [www.longhirstvillage.co.uk](http://www.longhirstvillage.co.uk) - Chris Marr 01670 790196 / email : [chrismarr@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismarr@btinternet.com) (u)

**Village Facebook page** - [https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](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](http://www.longhirstchurch.btck.co.uk) (b)

### **Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:**

Peter and Claire Coates - The Old Farmhouse, Broomhaugh: 01670 791088, [clairecoates32@gmail.com](mailto:clairecoates32@gmail.com) (k)

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773 738442 (f)

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 01670 791149, [dewarms@btinternet.com](mailto:dewarms@btinternet.com) (w)

Janet Quinn – Micklewood Close : 01670 790630, [quinnjanet@sky.com](mailto:quinnjanet@sky.com) (q)

Kim Woolhead – 3 Broomhaugh: 07749 811937, [kim.woolhead@gmail.com](mailto:kim.woolhead@gmail.com) (y)