

LONGHIRST LEADER

APRIL & MAY 2025

WHAT'S ON...

Spring Fayre at Longhirst Village Hall Saturday 5 April 10.30 – 12noon

Coffee and cake included in £3 entrance, Bacon Butties £3 extra

Raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac and other stalls.

Please come along and join us. All proceeds to St John's Church, Longhirst

Local Election Day Thursday 1 May Village Hall polling station 7am-10pm

Elections for county councillors and, if necessary, parish councillors.

Democracy is under threat around the world. Make your vote count!

LWCT Dawn Chorus Walk Sunday 4 May 6am

Our May event is on Sunday 4 May and will be a DAWN CHORUS WALK starting at the Village Hall at 6am. What better way to celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day than to get up early and hear the performance for yourself! We will first walk through Domino's Field and Paddock Wood, and then a little way along the bridleway to catch the Yellowhammers and Skylarks.

This is a FREE EVENT and everyone is welcome. Please email paulinegilbertson@gmail.com to register your interest, so that we are able to inform you if for some reason the event has to be cancelled or amended.

VE Day Celebration at Longhirst Colliery Hall Saturday 10 May 2pm until late

"A bit of a do..."

All welcome

Let's make it a special occasion - just like VE Day 80 years ago

Fancy dress in the style of the time – Prize for the Best Dressed

Raffle and Quiz

Tea & coffee and buffet £5

Bring your own bottle

MORE WHAT'S ON...

Domino's / War Horse Field Public Meeting Village Hall Thursday 3 April 7.30pm

Meeting to discuss the possibility of re-naming Domino's Field as War Horse Field and whether residents wish to try and acquire the field in order to extend the Millennium (Paddock) Wood across the burn.

See August/September 2024 Longhirst Leader (on the Village website) for background info.

Coffee morning at Longhirst Village Hall Saturday April 12 10.30am

Our regular monthly coffee morning. £1.50 for coffee and cake. All welcome.

Note: No coffee morning Saturday May 10

Pub Nights at the Village Hall Friday 18 April & Friday 16 May from 7.30pm.

All welcome.

LONGHIRST NEWS

Welcome to Longhirst

Welcome to Steve and Linda Lowther who have recently moved into Longhirst.

"Welcome to Longhirst" booklet

Thanks to Carol Benbow for revising and updating the "Welcome to Longhirst" booklet. It's available on the village website or email coralprivate@gmail.com to request a print copy.

Longhirst Parish Association

Mike Elphick

At its Board Meeting on the 20 March, the Longhirst Parish Association approved the wording of a new constitution for the Longhirst Parish Association to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This will be formally registered with the Charities Commission during the next few months.

It was reported that our application to Northumberland County Council for planning and listed building consent for the various hoped-for developments, is still being considered. These include the replacement of the front windows with bespoke double-glazed units, built to look exactly like the existing ones; the removal of the plaster and cement rendering on the foyer walls and replacing it with ventilated timber wainscoting such as that which has been installed in the reading room, and the resurfacing of the rear car park. It was agreed that the like-for-like repair of the leaning chimney will go ahead in late May, or early June, undertaken by the firm of masons who rebuilt the Church Lychgate.

Residents Traffic Survey

John Young & Jill McManus

Thanks to everyone who filled in this survey. 105 people responded in just 8 days and added a total of 4500 words in the comments sections which clearly shows the strength of feelings about this. Here is just a brief summary.

Overall the impression is that the needs of vehicles are prioritised over the safety and wellbeing of pedestrians and residents. This is a particular concern as 30% of respondents described themselves as having an additional need (hearing/visual impairment, mobility, wheelchair/buggy user)

- 92% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt traffic travels too fast through Longhirst
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed that crossing the road in the village made them feel unsafe
- 96% agreed or strongly agreed that crossing the road at the church made them feel unsafe
- Only 10% said they had never had to walk in the road because paths were blocked by parked cars or overgrown vegetation
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that they were discouraged from walking to and from the village or around Longhirst parish because of traffic, the state of paths or lack of paths beside roads.
- 56% of people who parked on the main street had experienced damage to their cars from through traffic
- 84% of people living near a main road said HGVs caused excessive noise or vibration in their home.

Issues which came up repeatedly were: the poor state of footpaths from the Longhirst Hall entrance, Pegswood and Longhirst Station; the lack of paths to Broomhaugh, Fawdon and towards Ulgham Lane; the lack of direct pedestrian access to Micklewood; the risk to pedestrians due to the speed of traffic along roads coming in to Longhirst from all directions; and difficulties for residents joining or turning off the main B1337 by car from side roads or entrances due to speed of through traffic. These issues were affecting residents' ability to take part in community activities and access to local facilities.

The comments also gave some idea of what traffic calming measures people felt were not working at the moment and suggestions of what could be done.

The next step is a petition to the county council to ask for their support for actions on the traffic issues in Longhirst. The petition will be available soon online and on paper.

Dog poo

John Young

You may have noticed in recent weeks an increase in dog faeces being left on pavements in the village and on the countryside walks surrounding the village. Is it possible for all dog owners to be extra vigilant? It's not the dogs' fault!

FUND RAISING

Hundred club

Month	1 st Prize (£60)	2 nd Prize (£40)	3 rd Prize (£20)
February	Ticket No. 6 Chris Marr	Ticket No. 32 Bob Batey	Ticket No. 25 Dorothy McMillan
March	Ticket No. 106 Barbara Dales	Ticket No. 35 Linda Mowbray	Ticket No. 120 Andy Bolton

Changes to the Hundred Club

Mike Elphick

We have come to the end of another successful year and have decided that, in the light of the 'Featonby bequest' to the Village Hall, from the 1 April 2025 onwards, to make a change to the beneficiaries of the Hundred Club. The surplus funds that the club generates, which amount to approximately £1200 per year, will in future go to the Longhirst Wildlife & Community Trust as well as to the Church as has been the case in the past.

I have made a particular effort this month, to communicate with as many Longhirst residents as possible, whether or not they are current members of the club.

Sadly, three of our most enthusiastic members passed away last year, so that is another reason why I have made a particular effort to contact as many of you as possible. I am pleased to say that we already have some new members, and I hope you will all consider either joining the club or increasing, if you can, the number of annual tickets you purchase.

If you haven't heard from me and would like details of the Longhirst Hundred Club, please contact me on 01670 790 764 or mike.elphick1@gmail.com and I will assist you to join.

Pie & Peas and Beetle Drive

Linda Mowbray

The event on the 1 March was very enjoyable, pies were eaten, beetles were driven and £228 was raised for St John's Church. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and to all who helped with the organisation.

APRIL DIARY

2	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
3	Thursday	7.30pm	Domino's field/War Horse Field public meeting in the Village Hall
5	Saturday	10.30am -12noon	Spring Fayre for St John's Church in the Village Hall
12	Saturday	10.00am 10.30am-12noon	Litter pickers Coffee morning in Village Hall
16	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
18	Friday	From 7.30pm	Pub night in the Village Hall
25	Friday		Late bin collection (Black)

MAY DIARY

1	Thursday	8am – 10pm	LOCAL ELECTIONS in the Village Hall
4	Sunday	6.00am	LWCT "Dawn Chorus" walk.
7	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
9	Friday		Late bin collection (Black)
9	Friday	Approx. 9.45am	Mobile Library
10	Saturday	10.00am	Litter pickers
10	Saturday	2pm until late	VE Day Event Longhirst Colliery
16	Friday	From 7.30pm	Pub night in the Village Hall
21	Wednesday	11.45am	Lunch Club in the Village Hall
30	Friday		Late bin collection (Blue)
30	Friday	Approx. 9.45am	Mobile Library

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Date	Time	Service
6 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
13 April	9.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
18 April	2.30pm	Good Friday Service at St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood
20 April	9.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
27 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
4 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
11 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal
18 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St John's, Longhirst
25 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Bothal

LONGHIRST VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pilates	Fridays	9.30 -10.30am	charlotte@charlottewoodpilates.com
Sewing Group	First & Third Tuesdays	10am-2pm	helenpotts65@gmail.com
U3A	Check Village website for information		www.longhirstvillage.co.uk

CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerk	Barry Flux		longhirstpc@gmail.com
Parish Council website	https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst		
County Councillor	David Towns	07985 012012	david.towns@northumberland.gov.uk
Churchwarden	Heather Jackson	07756 690027	siriusa1998@aol.com
Church website	https://longhirstchurch.chessck.co.uk/		
Parochial Church Council Secretary	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Longhirst Parish Association	Janet Quinn	01670 790630	quinnjanet@sky.com
Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust	Kim Woolhead	07749 811937	kim.woolhead@gmail.com
Longhirst Colliery Recreation Room Bookings	Mary Climson	07727 198108	maryclimson67@gmail.com
Longhirst Village Hall Bookings	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Lunch Club	Linda Rudd	01670 790116	barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk
Litter Picking	Chris Lediard	01670 790268	chris.lediard@tiscali.co.uk
Coffee Mornings	Helen McCabe	01670 790494	mccabe_paul1@sky.com
Pub Nights	Allison and Richard Tordoff	01670 790364	rtordoffs@gmail.com
Longhirst Hundred Club	Mike Elphick	01670 790764	mike.elphick1@gmail.com
Village Website www.longhirstvillage.co.uk	Chris Marr	01670 790196	chrismarr@btinternet.com
Village Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/longhirstvillage/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel		
Longhirst Leader	Jill McManus	07837 525634	longhirstleader@gmail.com
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