

LONGHIRST LEADER

August / September 2022

THE LONGHIRST LEADER CELEBRATES ITS 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Leader was first published in September 2002. A Church News letter had previously been circulated but the Vicar Stephen Liddle and a few others were keen to extend this to cover all Parish activities and to use the publication as a more effective means of communication.

Regular contributions in 2002 included the Vicar's Letter, the Hundred Club Draw Results, the Diary and a list of Contacts. Among the articles in the first edition were details of a Macmillan Coffee Morning and sponsored Steeple Chase, the trophy winners from the Flower and Vegetable Show (more recently called the Village Show), congratulations to three couples who were celebrating their golden or platinum wedding anniversaries and a plea for good homes for unplanned kittens. The members of the Editorial Group were Stephen Liddle, Debbie Hargreaves, Jill Elphick, Valerie Clark, Carol Robson, Sibell Pigg and Peter Coates.

There have been a number of changes to the content and delivery of the Leader over the years but we still aim to be informative, useful and interesting to everyone in the Parish and need your involvement to achieve this. The current Editorial Group is always delighted to receive your articles and suggestions and if you would like to join the Editorial Group you will be very welcome: please contact any member.

The Editorial Group

LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURE

Network Rail has announced that it will be undertaking major maintenance works alongside the **Station Road level crossing** at intervals from mid-August to the end of November.

There will be a few overnight crossing closures but there will be a **full closure of the crossing from 11pm on Thursday 15 to 9am on Tuesday 20 September**. The usual diversions will be signed.

Unfortunately, the timing coincides with the end of the harvest season and traffic problems can be expected between the centre of the Village and North East Grains for the duration of the daytime closure.

Both the Parish Council and NE Grains have requested a two-week delay to allow for the harvest to be completed but Network Rail has declined this request. They have promised to consult earlier in future but say it is now too late to alter their plans on this occasion.

Peter Coates (k)

CAROL ROBSON invites you to **AFTERNOON TEA**

at Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane

on **Saturday 20 August 2.00 - 4.30pm**

Tickets £6 from Carol (f) by 14 August please.

All proceeds to St. John's Church



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The last meeting of the Parish Council was held on 7 July.

Bill Dryden from **Longhirst Colliery** reported that the County Council had agreed to undertake the repairs to the potholes along Straker Terrace. The tree clearance following storm Arwen is still ongoing. The litter bin for the bus shelter has been ordered.

The Queen's Jubilee Picnic at the Village Hall was enjoyed by those who came (although it was not as well attended as expected possibly due to the proximity of the Open Gardens weekend). The Chair thanked everyone involved in the organisation of this event.

A **Queen's Jubilee Plaque** has been ordered at a cost of £154.99, however the location of the Jubilee tree and the plaque have yet to be decided.

The **houses on Dairy Lane** are nearly complete, one house is occupied and the other has been sold. Once completed vehicular access to the properties will be via Dairy Lane. It is expected that the gap in the wall of Longhirst Hall will be repaired.

Domino's Field - The developer has appealed the refusal of planning permission and the outcome is still awaited.

The Parish Council along with a number of residents objected to the planning application for an extension to the **Old Cricket Pavilion**. It is hoped that this will be the last application for the parkland at Longhirst Hall.

The problems with **fly tipping at Potland Park** have improved. The Environmental Enforcement Officer is in regular contact with updates on any remedial action taken. However, the access issues around public rights of way and the repeated flooding of the Ashington Road are still to be resolved.

The County Council has agreed to clear the **footpath along the Cricket club frontage** on the main road into the Village once the trees have been cut back to allow access for their vehicles.

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the repairs to **St. John's Lychgate**. Whilst as much of the original material as possible will be used some materials will need to be replaced including new roof tiles which will have to be made by hand.

The ongoing clear-up following Storm Arwen has delayed some of the requested repairs to the **Public Rights of Way**: never the less the County Council is committed to maintaining the paths.

Local Transport Plan. The Parish Council will submit just one priority - the resurfacing of the remainder of the Station Road from North East Grains to the Ashington Road junction.

Recent repairs to the **Longhirst Hall wall** near the old gatehouse - the Conservation Officer at NCC has agreed that the work is not of the required standard especially as the wall is listed. It is understood that they will be taking further action.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 7pm Thursday 1 September at Longhirst Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend.

Janet Quinn (q)

LONGHIRST LOGO

We are looking for a logo that represents Longhirst and can be used by a number of different organisations within the Parish (for example the Parish Council, the Parish Association, the PCC or the new Wildlife and Community Trust). It should be a simple line drawing in black and white or a single colour.

We welcome contributions from Longhirst residents of ALL ages and will extend the invitation to Pegswood Primary School pupils. There will be a prize of £50 for the winning entry. Please send your entries to me (k) by 15 October and contact me if you would like any more information.

Peter Coates

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

The Macmillan Coffee Morning is being held on **Saturday 1 October** from 10.30am - 12.00noon in the Village Hall. Entrance will be £5 per person to include coffee/tea and homemade cake. Please come along and bring your family and friends. All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Linda Rudd (i)

OPEN GARDENS AND FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Open Gardens. It was a lovely weekend for over 600 visitors who had 16 gardens to enjoy as well as the beautiful flower display in the Church, the model railway, music from the KEVI steel band and Fellside Brass, excellent lunches and teas. More than 250 ice creams were consumed.

We know how much hard work everyone put in - especially the gardeners. We hope everyone felt it was worthwhile and it was great to hear all the compliments from visitors about the event overall and how fantastic the gardens were.

Between us we raised £7,062.04 after expenses. £5,600 will be shared equally between the Church and the Village Hall and the remainder kept for a future starter fund. However, it's about community as much as it is about the money, and it was brilliant that so many people were able to get involved.

J. McManus (o) & the O.G. Steering Group



VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Our application to the County Council's Planning Department for Listed Building Consent was registered on the 21 June and the Council has informed us that we should receive a response by 16 August. With prices rising week by week, we will then have to review the position and have discussions with the National Lottery.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



Pub nights are held in the Village Hall on the third Friday of every month. The next two will be on 19 August and 16 September. Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Allison (h), Richard, Kathleen, Susan and Phil



CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

The August and September Sunday services are:-



Date	Holy Communion	Evening Service
7 August	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
14 August	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
21 August	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
28 August	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
4 September	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
11 September	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst
18 September	9.30am St. John's, Longhirst	4.00pm St. Andrew's, Bothal
25 September	9.30am St. Andrew's, Bothal	4.00pm St. John's, Longhirst

Every Wednesday morning at 9.30am there is a church service in St. Margaret's Hall in Pegswood.

VICAR'S LETTER

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them shall fall to the ground without God taking notice. Do not be afraid, you are worth far more than many sparrows." (A saying of Jesus).

One of my favourite stories from the Venerable Bede's "History of the English Church and People" shows the frailty of the humble sparrow being called upon to draw attention to the vulnerability of human life. Picture the scene. In the year 627 Edwin, the King of Northumbria, is sitting in counsel with his leading subjects debating with them whether or not to adopt the then "new religion" of Christianity and discussions are deadlocked until this decisive contribution:



"The present life of man, O King, seems to me, may be likened to the swift flight of a sparrow through the hall where you sit at supper in winter, with a good fire in the midst while the storms of rain and snow prevail outside. The sparrow, flying in at one door and then immediately out at the other, whilst it is within, is safe from the wintry storm; but after a short space of fair weather, immediately vanishes from sight into the dark winter from which it briefly emerged. So too, our lives appear for a short space, but of what went before or what is to follow, we are utterly ignorant. If therefore this new religion contains something more certain, it surely deserves to be followed."

That intervention won the day and Bede goes on to report of a huge christening service in York on 12 April, the same year the king "with all the nobility of the nation and a large number of the common sort received the faith and the washing of regeneration."

This past year since the churches have been opening again families are once more bringing their children for christening in very healthy numbers. When helping a family prepare personal prayers to be included in the service they are asked to write down what they are thankful for and what they worry about. More often than not they say that they are thankful for the safe arrival of their new-born but worry about the state of world their child has been born into and thereby give expression perhaps to that same vulnerability which prevailed in the debate at King Edwin's court all those centuries ago.

Did you know that the most often repeated instruction by Jesus and others in the Bible is simply, "do not be afraid" or "fear not"? In times of uncertainty and difficulty I often bring to mind a simple but wise saying which my vicar, from back in the day, had framed and displayed on the wall of his sitting room: "We struggle with anxiety and fear, not because we are ignorant of the future, but because we are ignorant of God."

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)
June	Ticket No. 129 Barbara Dales	Ticket No.168 Janet Quinn	Ticket No. 122 Maureen Chambers
July	Ticket No. 128 Sandy Eagan-Fowler	Ticket No. 102 Gordon Heskett	Ticket No. 153 Diane Millmore

Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

3	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
13	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n)
		10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r)
17	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
19	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
20	Saturday	2.00 - 4.30pm Afternoon Tea at Carol Robson's	(f)

SEPTEMBER

1	Thursday	7pm Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
2	Friday	Late black bin collection	
3	Saturday	Late garden waste collection	
7	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
9	Friday	Deadline for October / November Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
10	Saturday	10am Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall	(n)
		10.30am – 12noon Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r)
16	Friday	7.30pm Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
21	Wednesday	11.45am Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)

REGULAR EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to.....

- Church services as detailed on page 4
- 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 19 August and 16 September

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 1 October, 10.30–12noon. Macmillan Coffee Morning the Village Hall

Saturday 22 October, 11am – 3pm. Church Autumn Fair

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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If you require a copy in large print please let us know.