

LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2024

LONGHIRST OPEN GARDENS SATURDAY 29 and SUNDAY 30 JUNE 2024



We are delighted to let you know that Longhirst Open Gardens will go ahead this year.

If you would like to find out more, come along to the Village Coffee Morning on **Saturday 10 February** from 10.30am for an informal meeting with members of the organising group.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden or

volunteer to help with the event.

The success of Open Gardens is down to the many members of the community who help out as stewards or with car parking, catering, flower arranging, selling tickets or selling ice cream.

So, if you can help out for a couple of hours on the Open Gardens Weekend, please let us know.

If you can't make it to the meeting please contact Jill McManus jemcmanus@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07837 525634.

Jill McManus (o)



LONGHIRST WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY TRUST FREE EVENTS

The following **free** events are planned in February and March:

Tuesday 6 February, 10.00-12.00: Winter Ladybirds (and other wildlife) at Havannah Nature Reserve, Hazelrigg, Newcastle, NE13 7AP. Led by James Common, Senior Naturalist at the Natural History Society of Northumbria. (NB. this event was planned for 19 January but postponed due to inclement weather).



Saturday 17 February, 10.00-12.00: Guided tour of East Chevington Nature Reserve (adjacent to Druridge Bay Country Park). Led by Sophie Webster, Project Officer at Northumberland Wildlife Trust. We will hear about her Harvest Mouse re-introduction project, and visit the new bird hides to see what we can spot on the reserve.

A Thursday evening in March, date tbc: Gardening for Wildlife at Longhirst Village Hall. Talk by Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

If you would like to book onto any of these, please contact Pauline Gilbertson at paulinegilbertson@gmail.com or 07717 224072. Lifts will be available if needed. Once we have confirmed dates for further events we will let you know.



Kim Woolhead (y)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



**Longhirst
Parish Council**

Parish Council meeting held on 4 January.

Longhirst Colliery – Bill Climson reported on a meeting with Ian Lavery MP to discuss the numerous potholes and poor state of the roads at the Colliery. The paths are overgrown forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. The majority of the road is not adopted and not maintained by the County Council. Ian Lavery agreed to raise the possibility of Straker Terrace being adopted with NCC.

Longhirst Hall - Andy Robson reported that the paperwork to transfer the communal areas around the Hall to the residents is nearly complete. The annual tree survey has been undertaken and has indicated that a significant amount of work is required.

Micklewood - Janet Quinn reported that Micklewood is also in the process of transferring the communal areas and the tree survey has found a significant number of trees requiring attention. Google have updated their maps and appear to be sending traffic through Micklewood onto Dairy Lane (there is no vehicular access, but vans have been driven into the field by the sub-station causing damage to the grassed area). A resident is attempting to contact Google to rectify the problem.

Potland Park - Planning Enforcement has responded to the joint letter sent from Ashington Town Council and Longhirst Parish Council about the state of the Rights of Way network and have stated that the situation will be investigated.

Lychgate repairs - the news that the repairs were completed just before Christmas was warmly welcomed.

Ashington Road flooding issues – Peter Coates and Helyn Douglas attended a meeting of the NCC Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee in December and presented a detailed report on the history of the flooding. The officer present stated that the ditch will be cleared (this has now been done) and a permanent solution investigated including raising the level of the road.

The Forge Ulgham - £500 worth of shares have been bought by the Parish Council and in total over £100,000 has been raised from 245 people. The Community Management Committee now plans to apply for a grant from the Government Community Ownership Fund.

Budget 2024/2025 - following discussion it was agreed to pursue the following activities in 2024/2025.

- Community skips - initially a skip will be provided for a day in the centre of the Village for use by all residents. If this is successful/useful then more skips will be provided in different locations (£1000).
- War Memorial and surrounding area - the repair of the tarmac and paving around and opposite the Memorial will be investigated, the area generally tidied and potentially two benches installed (£1000).
- Community event to celebrate the 200 year anniversary of Longhirst Hall - support for a celebration event in the Village with refreshments, displays, stalls, etc. (£1000).
- Ceiling mounted projector and screen for the Reading Room in the Village Hall. This would benefit both the Parish Council and other users (£2000).
- Ashington Road - contribution towards the cost of improving the drainage and raising the road at the flooding site (£2000).
- Paddock (Millennium) Wood path improvements - to thin some of the trees and use the chippings to improve the paths (£5000).

Total £12000. (NB: some of these activities will require approval from an outside body and the amounts are only estimates).

Annual Precept – It was agreed to hold the precept for 2024/25 at the current level.

The **next meeting** will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 7 March** in Longhirst Village Hall and all residents are invited to attend.

Janet Quinn (q)

LIVES REMEMBERED

In St John's Church in December there were very sadly funerals for Margaret Lediard and Tom Pigg, both of whom had lived in Longhirst for many years.

Margaret was born in Newcastle in 1948 but the family soon moved and she spent her early life in Sutton Coldfield before relocating to Whitley Bay when she was 12. Here she joined St. Mary's Youth Club in Monkseaton, where Chris was the Youth Leader. They became engaged while she was at Teacher Training College in Ripon, were married in 1971 and lived in Morpeth for five years before moving to Croft House in Longhirst.

Margaret was an excellent cook and while the children, Mark and Julia, were young she took a break from teaching and started a very successful catering business with three others including her sister, Barbara, and Beryl Gibson. While living in Longhirst she provided marmalade, jams, chutneys, cakes, soups etc. for many fund-raising events in the Village. She was also one of the four inaugural chefs for the Village Lunch Club.

She was a very keen and knowledgeable gardener and won a number of prizes for her fruit and vegetables, in addition to her baking, at the Village Show. She and Chris also opened their garden for several Open Gardens Weekends. Margaret contributed greatly to many areas of Village life. She was a regular Litter Picker and was Chairman of the Parish Association until very recently, when ill health forced her to step down.

Singing was another of Margaret's pastimes. She was a member of the Mid-Northumberland Chorus for many years and more recently joined The Bridge Singers from Felton who sang at her funeral.

Tom will be remembered by a number of you walking his dog, Stanley, up and down the Village in his latter years, but there was much more to Tom than that.

He was born in 1929 and was brought up at the family farm near Silloth, Cumberland. He had an idillic childhood and it was a very sad day for him when the family moved to Ashington. Silloth always held a very important place in his heart.

He met Sibell and they married in 1961 and moved to their cottage in Longhirst. Tom was a keen gardener. He supported the Longhirst Village Show for years and showed his prize-winning gladioli at the National Gladioli Society in London and his prize-winning leeks all over the country. His annual display of red begonias in their back garden was quite delightful.

Sport always featured in Tom's life. In his youth he competed in Cumberland wrestling and after moving to Ashington he played football for a local club. Having moved to Longhirst he became a member of the Longhirst Badminton Club and played both locally and nationally. After retirement he took up bowls and ran the Longhirst Indoor Bowling Club for many years and played for Northumberland County. He was a Newcastle United season ticket holder for many years and supported them to the end.

Unfortunately sport and Tom's working life caught up with him and severely limited his mobility but he still pottered around the house, gardened and patronised the Village Lunch Club fortnightly, which he enjoyed very much.

Margaret and Tom will be dreadfully missed by very many people in Longhirst and far beyond. Our thoughts are with Chris and Sibell and both their families.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



At our first meeting of 2024 we were delighted to welcome our four newly elected Trustees, Ian Loudon, Paul McCabe, Diane Milmore and Andy Robson to the Board.

We are frustrated to have to report that the Lottery funded fresh air ventilation system is not yet fully commissioned. After failing to complete this work before Christmas the contractors have said it will be finished by 26 January. Board members expressed the hope that this time the work will be satisfactorily completed.

Concern was expressed over the muddy state of the area behind the Hall that is used for car parking. Officers were asked to get estimates for the cost of resurfacing the area with aggregate similar to that which covers the front car park.

The Board still plans a large social event for the whole Village in the Spring when we will be seeking people's ideas about the next development priorities for the Village Hall.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS



The next Pub Nights are on **Friday 16 February** and **Friday 15 March** from 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We hope you can join us, everyone is very welcome.

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



RED SQUIRREL CONSERVATION – AN IMPORTANT CHANGE

Please see below a statement from the coordinator of Morpeth and District Red Squirrels:

It was with regret that we decided to close MADRS at the end of 2023. Membership of our Core Group had been reducing in recent months and we were unable to recruit any new members who were prepared to take on the necessary administrative work. However the members actively involved in grey control remain enthusiastic about their role in Red Squirrel conservation and are keen to continue.

Colleagues in Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group have generously extended their area to include parts of our previous patch. If you see a red or a grey squirrel in the Longhirst area, please report it to them. The coordinators are Paul Brannan (07961 937304) and Carole Neesam (07488 286434) and their e-mail is badrsg@btinternet.com. If you already have a grey squirrel trap in your garden please continue to use your current contact person for collection and despatch. If you live in Longhirst and would like to borrow a grey squirrel trap please text 07717 224072 and leave your details. We would love to see more red squirrels return to our Parish!

Pauline Gilbertson

WORKING TO SAFEGUARD OUR NATIVE RED SQUIRRELS

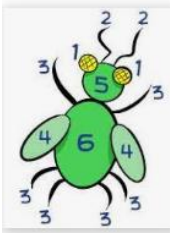
CONTACT US ON:

✉ badrsg@btinternet.com

☎ 07961937304 (Paul Brannan)
07488286434 (Carole Neesam)

📘 Bedlington & District Red Squirrel Group

scan to go to our facebook group:



BEETLE AND BROTH EVENING

Please join us on **Saturday 24 February** for our Broth and Beetle Drive at 7pm in the Village Hall. An evening of good food, fun and hilarity not to be missed!

Tickets are £5 from Carol Robson (f) by **17 February** please.



CHURCH NOTICE BOARD



We had two fund raising events before Christmas and would like to thank those who supported them, as well as all the helpers. The Christmas Coffee Morning was very successful and raised £520 for Church funds. The Carol singers collected £402 and this was added to the collection at the Carol Service resulting in £610 being donated to the Great North Air Ambulance Service. There was an excellent response to the call for donations of toys for the Cedarwood Trust in North Shields and thanks go to everyone who contributed.

There will be a Broth and Beetle evening in the Village Hall on **Saturday 24 February** (see above) and Carol Robson will be holding a Wildlife Watch Day on **Saturday 13 April**.

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February and March Sunday Services

Date	Time	Service
4 February	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
11 February	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
14 February	9.30am	Ash Wednesday Service at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood
18 February	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
25 February	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
3 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
10 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
17 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. John's, Longhirst
24 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Bothal
Thursday 28	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service at St. Andrew's Bothal
Friday 29	2.00pm	Good Friday Service at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood
31 March (Easter Sunday)	10.15am	Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood

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)
December	Ticket No. 7 Sally Marr	Ticket No. 98 Vivienne Heskett	Ticket No. 212 Trevor Stevenson
January	Ticket No. 171 Margaret Wooldridge	Ticket No. 193 Gordon Ferguson <i>for Grace</i>	Ticket No. 213 Enid Hogg

Mike Elphick (c)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

2	Friday	09.45	Mobile Library in the Village	
6	Tuesday	10.00-12.00	LWCT Havannah Nature Reserve - Winter Ladybirds (Free)	(y)
7	Wednesday	11.45	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
10	Saturday	10.00 10.30-1200	Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall Coffee Morning and Public Open Gardens Meeting in the Village Hall	(r) (n) (o)
16	Friday	19.30	Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
17	Saturday	10.00-12.00	LWCT Free guided tour of East Chevington Nature Reserve	(y)
21	Wednesday	11.45	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
24	Saturday	19.00	Broth and Beetle Evening in the Village Hall (see P 5)	(f)

MARCH

1	Friday	09.45	Mobile Library in the Village	
6	Wednesday	11.45	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
7	Thursday	19.00	Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. All welcome	(a)
8	Friday		Deadline for April / May Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com	Ed. Group
9	Saturday	10.00 10.30-12.00	Litter pickers meet at the Village Hall Coffee Morning in the Village Hall	(r) (n)
15	Friday	19.30	Pub Night in the Village Hall	(h)
20	Wednesday	11.45	Lunch Club in the Village Hall	(i)
31	Sunday		British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward 1 hour	

A Thursday evening (date to be arranged) LWCT Free talk in the Village Hall – Gardening for Wildlife (y)

REGULAR EVENTS

- Church services as detailed on Page 5
- Holistic Health ‘Sound Bath’ in Village Hall on first Friday of the month 5.30 – 7.30pm
(rachel.holistichealth@gmail.com, www.lifeholistictherapies.co.uk)
- 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

FUTURE EVENTS

- Carol Robson’s Wildlife Watch Day – Saturday 13 April
- Open Gardens Weekend – Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June

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 - **(b)**

Churchwarden - Heather Jackson 07756 690027/ e-mail : siriusa1998@aol.com **(d)**

PCC Secretary – Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com **(c)**

Longhirst Parish Association – Janet Quinn 790630 / e-mail : quinnjanet@sky.com **(q)**

Village Hall Bookings - Mike Elphick 790764 / e-mail : mike.elphick1@gmail.com **(c)**

Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust- Kim Woolhead 07749 811937 / e-mail : kim.woolhead@gmail.com **(y)**

Lunch Club – Linda Rudd 790116 / e-mail : barnacrelmr@aol.co.uk **(i)**

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 Recreation Room bookings – Mary Climson 07727 198108 / maryclimson67@gmail.com **(j)**

Red/Grey Squirrel Sightings – Bedlington and District Red Squirrel Group, Paul Brannan 07961 937304,
Carole Neesam 07488 286434 / e-mail : badrsg@btinternet.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)**

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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

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

Mo Dewar - 7 Stable Close : 791149, dewarms@btinternet.com **(w)**

Janet Quinn – 38 Micklewood Close : 790630, quinnjanet@sky.com **(q)**

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

If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail please let Mike Elphick (c) know.