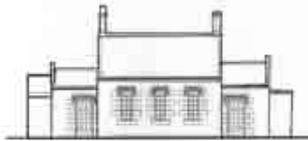


LONGHIRST LEADER

February / March 2021

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Work on the Village Hall is progressing although there is still some work to be completed on the new lighting.

The minor touch-up redecoration in the toilets and in the Main Hall is finished and is looking good. The boxing in of the new pipework in the kitchen is complete and after a full redecoration of that room we will need to undertake a full deep clean of the kitchen, its cupboards and all their contents ready for the reopening of the Luncheon Club once we have all been vaccinated.

This leaves the Library where we hope to be able to store not only a wide range of books and jigsaws, but all the historical records donated by Ian Thompson. Peter McKenzie, with his expertise as an archivist, is currently looking through these and will advise on appropriate storage and display of this material.

The Longhirst Parish Association Trustees

LONGHIRST VILLAGE SHOW



Although none of us suspected that we might be saying the same thing this year..... in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, the very sad decision has been made not to go ahead with Longhirst Village Show for the second year running.

Profit from the annual Show is spent supporting the Village in many ways, for example buying new tables and crockery for the Village Hall, supporting the Open Gardens event and contributing to other Village groups. Although a Village Show did not go ahead last year it was decided to donate £505 to the Longhirst Parish Association, £200 of which was put towards the purchase of a new gazebo for the Village and £305 to buy a new projector screen for the Village Hall.

Should restrictions ease later in the year, it is hoped that a small group will get together with the aim of organising some form of Village event so that we can all meet up again as in the good old days!

In the meantime, let's hope that a good number of residents in the Parish are able to be vaccinated in the next few months to provide protection against this horrendous virus.

I wish you all the best in these turbulent times.

Carol Benbow (p)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



At the meeting held on 7th January Councillors thanked County Councillor David Towns for paying for the **two new flashing speed warning signs** from his NCC budget.

The southern one is working well but it has been agreed with NCC that the northern one is incorrectly sited and needs to be moved away from the shade of the nearby tree (which will affect the solar panel). This installation completes the County Council speed reduction scheme for Longhirst which has been warmly welcomed.

Councillor Towns referred to the **flooding of the Ashington Road** and was pleased that Advance Northumberland and NCC Highways had met on site to agree necessary improvements. Glen Fahy and Peter Coates attended the meeting and reported that immediate ditch clearance work would be carried out, major sources of inflow investigated and hopefully the road raised through the bottom of the dip.

Councillor Towns advised any residents requiring **support during this latest Covid-19 lockdown** to contact NCC Communities Together or the Morpeth Matters Facebook group. Any parents whose children need **computer equipment** for home study should contact their local school in the first instance. Cllr. Towns believes that schools should have an adequate supply of equipment, but if anyone has a problem they can contact him direct. (Full contact details were included in the recent e-supplement).

On behalf of **Longhirst Hall** residents Andy Robson reported that one of the two new dwellings in the field north of Dairy Lane has been sold. The construction of the new footpath from Micklewood Close to allow pedestrian access into the Village might have to wait until the development work is completed. The developer has, however, promised to repair the damaged fencing mentioned at the last meeting.

Jon Mills from **Micklewood** said that he was pleased with the new speed warning signs in Longhirst and that the new estate management arrangements were not yet finalised as there are outstanding legal issues to resolve.

The **Colliery** Residents Association had indicated that they were pleased with the new road sign and requested a new dog waste bin. This was approved.

Others matters in brief:

The information given to the Parish Council that a property at the north end of the Village was a holiday let had proved to be incorrect. It is being renovated for full time occupation. The Parish Association has subsequently offered **residents north of No.17 the use of the car parking area at the Village Hall** until the Hall comes back into normal use. It is hoped that residents will take advantage of this to minimise problems with through traffic on the main road (details in the last e-supplement).

Jon Mills is taking an active interest in **Public Rights of Way** and agreed to take a lead on PROW matters on behalf of the Council. He is happy to hear from anyone with a knowledge of walking routes around the Parish.

There remains concern over housing developments underway at the **Station Cottages**. The Clerk will once more contact NCC Planning and enquire about recent planning applications and any enforcement action that is being taken.

Domino's Field - NCC have rejected the planning application for 10 new bungalows on the site. This decision was very warmly welcomed.

NCC Planners have admitted to the Parish Council that they failed to include a condition denying access for **construction vehicles up Dairy Lane**. Their Enforcement Officer has, however, contacted the developers and "strongly requested" that they only access the field on the north side through the hole in the Longhirst Hall wall.

The **shopping service** provided to some residents during the Covid-19 crisis is still available (details in the last e-supplement). Many thanks go to Dianne Milmore and Fiona Smith for doing this.

Having reviewed the current budget the Council agreed to increase **next financial year's precept** by the level of inflation from £7000 to £7200.

The quarterly **liaison meeting with North East Grains** was taking place on 15th January (see report below).

Concern was expressed over the **condition of the road to Linton from the centre of the Village**. The Clerk would contact NCC Highways.

The Red Row Garden Hut has provided Lawrence Carey with many of the materials for the maintenance of the planters in the middle of the Village and a letter of appreciation would be sent to them by the Parish Council. (See article on page 5)

The **next meeting** will be held using Zoom at **6.30pm on Thursday 4th March**. All residents are invited to take part and those wishing to do so should contact the Clerk, Helyn Douglas (a) for further information.

Peter Coates

BLOCKED DRAINS

The Parish Council has asked NCC Highways to ensure that the gully emptier visits Longhirst as soon as possible as a number of drains are blocked and causing problems.

One of the worst cases has been the main road drain at the end of Dairy Lane which has overflowed down the Lane. Our sincere thanks go to Lawrence Carey for all his efforts in clearing mud and leaves from around the drain close to the burn.

If you wish to report fly tipping, blocked drains or potholes please go to the Parish Council website (x) and click the relevant NCC entry on the "Links" page.

Peter Coates

NORTH EAST GRAINS LIAISON MEETING

Catherine Farrell, Chris Marr and myself (from the Parish Council) and County Councillor David Towns met Matthew Curry (the Managing Director of North East Grains) for the quarterly liaison meeting on 15th January.

Matthew explained that NEG still have no immediate plans to proceed with the installation of an anaerobic digester at the plant but may go ahead with the archaeological study that is a requirement of the planning permission in the near future.

NEG have erected a new sign at the exit from the plant (positioned at drivers' eye level) instructing all grain lorries to turn right (away from the Village). The Company has also written to all hauliers explaining the return routing arrangements.

The Parish representatives reported that the general view from residents seems to be that the proportion of large trucks returning through the centre of Longhirst has reduced.

The next meeting is scheduled for mid-April.

Peter Coates

COLLIERY CORNER

Longhirst Colliery will have a defibrillator in the Spring, hopefully in April. It will be provided and fitted by the Stephen Carey Trust and fully maintained and serviced at all times. Training on the correct use of the apparatus will also be provided.

Norah Dryden

MICKLEWOOD MATTERS

Due to Covid restrictions we have been unable to reschedule last years cancelled residents meeting, however we have updated the e-mail circulation list and continue to try to resolve some of the issues including the lack of access to the Village.

The wildlife around Micklewood is thriving and residents have reported sightings of red squirrels, deer, buzzards and a number of other species.

Keith Cochrane is still taking excellent shots across the pond including these two:



Did you bring the chips?



He also took this excellent photograph of the recent sunset.

Janet Quinn (q)

WHOM TO CONTACT?

If you want to respond to an article in the Leader or ask for information about any topic please refer to the author of the article or find the most appropriate person in the contacts list on the back page.

RED ROW GARDEN HUT

For the past few years I've been buying compost and plants from the Red Row Garden Hut CIC (Community Interest Company). They operate a shop in Red Row, staffed entirely by volunteers, where they heavily discount general horticultural products (plants, seeds, compost, flowers etc.). They also supply a wide range of pet and bird foods.

Any surplus profit they make is used to support local charitable and community projects. They have supplied me with the annual plug plants used at the War Memorial at cost price and this year they have supplied all the compost free of charge and have delivered it on a regular basis.

I did not ask for this support; they simply refused to accept payment!

They are located on the Main Street in Red Row and opening times and further information can be obtained from their website (thegardenhut.co.uk). They can be contacted on 07751 020968 or info@thegardenhut.co.uk.

Lawrence Carey

LITTER PICKING CONTINUES

Thank you to all the litter pickers who continue to regularly clean our Village streets and verges, it makes so much difference to the appearance of our surroundings.

We always meet, socially distanced, at the Village Hall at 10am on the second Saturday of the month. Plastic bags, bag holders, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis jackets are all provided.

Anyone who would like to become involved for the first time will be made very welcome.

We look forward to the time when we can all once more have coffee in the Hall afterwards.

Chris Lediard (r)

WELCOME



Karen and David Coates are renovating 25 Longhirst Village and Michael and Jenny Fraser are now living at Dairy Cottage at Middlesteads. We trust they will be very happy in their new homes and enjoy living here. Hopefully they will soon be able to meet more residents at Village events.

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. 150 Ian Rowling | Ticket No. 36 Linda Mowbray | Ticket No. 192 Alan Wooldridge |
| January | Ticket No. 130 Marie Labus | Ticket No. 114 Katherine Lamont | Ticket No. 70 Jane Anderson |

We are approaching that time of year when we all need to join or renew our membership of the Longhirst Hundred club. If you have not signed a standing order you should receive a letter from me by the middle of March. If you have not heard from me by the last week of March, please let me know. All proceeds are shared between the Church and Village Hall.

Mike Elphick (c)

VICAR'S LETTER



Following the recent upsurge in the progress of the Coronavirus pandemic with the emergence of a new and more transmittable strain and the government's advice to "stay at home", Sunday morning services at St. John's Church, Longhirst and St. Andrew's Church, Bothal, together with Wednesday morning services in St. Margaret's Hall, Pegswood have been suspended until further notice. Hopefully this will not be for too long and we will review this as the situation changes.

We did however manage to celebrate Christmas and for the first time our Christmas Eve Midnight Service was livestreamed from St. John's. This was mainly due to the kind offer and technical expertise of Lauren Regan from Longhirst Village who filmed it on her smartphone. Many thanks to Lauren and to all who took part.

The pandemic also prevented us holding our annual Advent Sunday Toy Service this year but it did not disrupt our toy collection for the Cedarwood Trust in North Shields. As many of you will know, Cedarwood is a Church of England outreach centre in the Meadowell Estate which does sterling work in support of families and children in the area and for many years we have collected a shed load of Christmas presents for them each year at our Advent service. Thanks to all who dropped presents off at the Church or the Rectory this year and the photos taken when I delivered the presents to Cedarwood once more amply illustrate your generosity. In addition to the presents we collected £120 in cash. Pictured on the right as you look is Wayne Dobson the Cedarwood CEO. We are just one organisation among several who support the Cedarwood Trust at Christmas and I'm told that this year they supplied 1200 Christmas stockings to local children.



John Park (b)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----|
| Saturday 13 th | 10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall | (r) |
|---------------------------|--|-----|

MARCH

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Thursday 4 th | 6.30pm Parish Council meeting on-line | (a) |
| Friday 12 th | Deadline for April / May Longhirst Leader e-mail to clairecoates32@gmail.com | Ed. Group |
| Saturday 13 th | 10am Litter Pickers meet at the Village Hall | (r) |
| Sunday 28 th | British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward 1 hour | |

The Fish Van stops at the War Memorial every Friday between 8.30 and 9.00am

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)

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 - Dorothy Launchbury 790491 / email: launching1@outlook.com (e)

hLonghirst 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)

Luncheon 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)

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)

Longhirst Leader Editorial Group:

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

Carol Robson - Rose Cottage, Ulgham Lane: 07773738442 (f)

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

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