



The Skylark

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

January 2020



Season's greetings to all our readers

Longstowe Parish Council: webpage address:

<http://www.longstoweparishcouncil.co.uk>

Dates for your Diary:

Parish Council meetings:

Thursday 16th January 2020

Thursday 20th February 2020

Thursday 19th March 2020

and the **Parish Open Meeting** on
Thursday 16th April 2020

BT Scams: If a caller claims to be from BT and you are concerned, ask them to leave notes on your account and you can then call BT on 0800 800 150 to confirm the call is genuine. Always wait a few minutes and check that the telephone line has been cleared and you are able to dial out as normal. For even greater security, use a different telephone line.

To Block a Call: Dial *60 followed by the number you wish to block, eg: *6001223795042.

Online Crime Reporting:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime>.

More urgent, but not 999? Call 101.

Neighbourhood Watch

Your co-ordinators are:

Deborah Hemmins 719638

Peter Hemmins 719372

If you see an incident, please take all the details and jot them down. Numbers, dates, times, descriptions. If matters are urgent dial 999. Otherwise telephone 101. You can also report incidents at www.cambs.police.uk.

Editor for *The Skylark*

Is there anyone out there who would like to volunteer for the post of Editor? The *Skylark* is produced every three months, on the first of January, April, July and October. The January issue is usually prepared early so that it is delivered before Christmas. As this is a Parish magazine, items are usually cleared by the Parish Council before publication.

Useful information

Unknown Telephone Calls: Simply Google: "who called me". This takes you to: <https://who-called.co.uk>. Type the number you need to check. The site may grade the number and you may see other comments and/or you can leave one yourself.

Heidi Allen

It was very sad to hear that all the personal abuse suffered by Heidi caused her to leave politics. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Heidi for all her hard work as our MP.

Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins

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Longstowe History Society

Back in June, a talk was given by Mr Mike Muirhead, a former resident of Lower Farm, Longstowe. Mike told us of five generations of his family's involvement with the railways in India and how useful and helpful he had found the organisation "FIBIS" (Families in British India Society) whilst researching his family's past. He had been able to locate images of former buildings with which his family had been familiar and had contrasted them with photographs he had taken on a recent visit to India.

We were shown photographs which displayed elephants doing varied

heavy lifting tasks and were told how the elephants had been so important to Southern India's economy. We were also shown that in the early days of the railway teams of horses were used to haul steam locomotives to their new locations on the railway.

The talk was well attended and concluded with a lively questions and answers session. An enjoyable and interesting evening, time very well spent.



Longstowe History Society has now been in existence for six years and enjoys a wide membership. Membership is presently £10 per annum, which includes five or more talks. Talks and most visits are open to everyone however; free for members and £3 for non-members, refreshments included. For further information, contact Jane Bowden: jane.bowden@icloud.com.

September 2019 marked the beginning of a new year of talks. The first of these, "**Villagers**" by Jim Brown, was the product of forty years of research, and gave a fascinating insight into the goings-on in Gamlingay over the past seven hundred and fifty years. It included an illuminating discussion illustrating the vast wealth of information available in documents, archives and libraries, within reach of everyone but hardly ever touched.

On Sunday 29th September, members were treated, by kind invitation of Steve Owen, to a tour of the **Old North Road Station**. Steve has amassed a remarkable collection of railway memorabilia, much of it relating directly to the ONR Station and brought back to its rightful home over the course of many years. He has also restored sections of track and installed a 1960's carriage of a type many would remember from their younger travelling days.

For the benefit of those who cannot make our Tuesday meetings, Steve Owen and Peter White gave a Saturday repeat of their absorbing talks on **"The History of Longstowe Church, its rebuilding and the Story of the Bells"** incorporating new material and accompanied by an exhibition of explanatory material around the church. The talks not only contained information about the evolution of the church and contents from the 14th century to its rebuilding in the 1860s, but also the rectors, and the families who have occupied the Hall, detailing their close involvement with the church. It also highlighted some incorrect "facts" written about the church that can be found in print and on the web! Peter talked about the fourteenth century tower and the manufacture of the first of the three ancient bells by female bell founder Johanna Sturdy in the fifteenth century, together with an explanation of the peculiarly English system of 'change ringing'. An astonishing amount of in-depth research and knowledge went into this presentation which we're hoping will be written up for the Village Archive in due course.

By the time you read this, Longstowe's own Iona Robinson, Project Supervisor and Senior Researcher at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, will have given a talk on the fascinating story of the extraordinarily well-preserved pile dwelling entitled **"Must Farm: Life in the Bronze Age Fens"**. We look forward to this.

The Society's AGM will be on Tuesday January 28th and after that, look out for the following talks. Talks take place at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Planned Talks

Tuesday 25 February 2020, 7.30 for 8
"The Story of Potton"

George Howe

The history of Potton from its early beginnings, the granting of market rights in 1094, the Great Fire of 1783, and a look at its buildings and industries.

Tuesday 28 April 2020, 7.30 for 8pm
"A Dirty History of Cambridge"

Alan Denney

We take a look at Cambridge's source of drinking water from polluted wells and a filthy River Cam; the first piped clean water supply to a Franciscan community in 1295; the Hobson Conduit in 1610; moving forward to look at what the Victorians did for Cambridge introducing a pumped clean water supply from the Greensands Aquafer; plus in 1894 completing a system for dealing with sewage and cleaning up the polluted river Cam.

Tuesday 12 May 2020, 7.30pm
Visit to Cambridge Museum of Technology (meeting at the Museum)

Pam Halls & Alan Denney
£5 entrance fee.

Tuesday 30 June 2020, 7.30 for 8pm

“Ermine Street / Old North Road”

Steve Owen

*Romans, Robbers, Railways and more!
The history of the road.*

Planned Walks – look out for further details

Sharon Brown led another enjoyable and informative afternoon walk in October, to and around Hayley Wood. These walks are open to all and have been a delightful way to spend a few hours exploring hidden bits of Longstowe and its environs. Earlier summer evening walks in the past few years have revealed glow-worms at dusk along the old railway cutting, and another is planned next June.

Sat 18th or Sunday 19th April 2020 or
Sat 25th or Sunday 26th April 2020
(to be confirmed)

“Elms, Oxlips and Primroses”

Buff Wood at Hatley.

Springtime in this lovely little wood, good for those who don't want to walk too far.

Friday 12th or 19th June 2020, 8.30pm
– to be confirmed

“Glow-worm and Wild Flowers”

The old railway line Longstowe.

For those who only want to walk one way. Meet at 9.45pm – west end of the railway line.

(Car ferrying can always be arranged)

Millennium

Just to mention, on January 1st it will be 20 years since Longstowe celebrated the Millennium. It took around four years of planning for the event, and on the day almost everyone

turned out, first for Breakfast in the Village Hall, followed by unveiling of the Village sign. In the afternoon it was cutting the cake and handing out our very own Millennium coins. Then it was party time again, with the children having a “sleepover” in the Village Hall. One thing I remember, it was a perfect spring-like day enjoyed by everyone. Alas, with the passing of time many have gone, but for those of us still around, we have memories of a great occasion for such a tiny village.

Dick Murden

Afternoon Tea

The once-a-month Friday afternoon tea in the Village Hall is proving popular. Do come along and join in the conversation.



Makes one think...

My wife and I recently enjoyed a week's holiday in a beautiful part of Dorset. One evening we both decided to enjoy a local delicacy from the bakery in the village. It had on display all sorts of goodies, both savoury and sweet. I left it to my wife to make a choice. She chose a couple of Cornish pasties. Whilst they were being wrapped up and paid for, I lightheartedly joked with the girl who was serving us, asking her if they really were Cornish, or of local Dorset manufacture. She smiled sweetly as

she confidently assured me that they were genuine Cornish and she was sure of that because they ordered them from Devon. I wonder which bit of Cornwall Devon occupies these days!
PW

Afternoon Tea

in the Village Hall

Friday 31st January 2020 2.30 to 4.30

and on:



**28th February
and
27th March**

“Letter from America”

Checkered Past – It Takes All Kinds

Have you ever thought about where you came from and where you really got your parenting skills or lack of them? Well, doing this article made me see my own. I was asked to share with readers my own humble beginnings. Since I am older than many of you, it could span 3 entries. So I decided to start in the era in which my parents met.

My parents both came from very poor large families. My father was the oldest in his family and was from a previous relationship Grandmother had with a

Canadian, Victor Patterson. Victor had run off when he found she was pregnant. My father had 4 other half-siblings.

His mother's family had immigrated from England and started their new family in Virginia. My great-grandfather's family landed from England in West Virginia. Somehow they met each other and the Messenger family moved west and landed in Des Moines, Iowa. It's in the North Central Plains in the middle of cornfields and wheatfields for as far as the eye can see. It's about 200 miles North of where I was raised. They had to have travelled over the Appalachian Mountains by covered wagon and it must have taken months.

My Mother's family history is very cloudy. Her mother was 1/2 Cherokee Indian. Her father 1/2 German. That's all I know except they married and the Miller family begat 8 more Miller's, 2 girls, 6 boys. My mother was second to the youngest. The two families knew each other too. My father went to primary school with my mother's older brothers.

But when my mother turned 14 my father was enamored. He saw her and asked who she was. When her brothers told him she was their sister, he couldn't believe it. He was 19. It was in depression era 1935. They married in July that year.

Times were really bad in that 20 year timeslot in America and around the world. The stock market crashed, banks closed, people committed suicide! My parents moved into a tent along the banks of the Des Moines River! They lived off the grid and on the land. Victor Patterson found my father and moved in too. My mother asked them to bring a big tub full of river water to put on the fire so she could wash clothes. They'd been living in the tent for two years. She was stout at 16. When they went fishing, without getting the water, she stalked down and got the water all by herself. She was 5'1" and 120

pounds. 9 stone, I think. She put the water on the fire to heat and felt excruciating pain and bleeding like never before. She lay inside the tent and my father found her a few hours later. He realized she'd had a miscarriage. There was no money for hospital care, so my father retrieved his mother from her hoe to help my mother. She laid big rocks in the fire and wrapped them in towels to relieve the cramping and bleeding. I bet it was not a happy reunion when she found out her son's father who left her pregnant was living with them! She was quite hot headed.

Many years later, trying to have a baby, my father was called to serve in the US Navy. World War 2 had already commenced and we were fighting Germany to help stop Hitler's expansion into Europe and England when the Japanese thought to cripple us with bombing Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (not yet a state) sinking many US Battleships docked there. So we entered the war with a vengeance. In the Pacific for 4 years, my father was a gunner's mate, handling the big belts of bullets that fed into the battleship guns, one on each side of him.

He returned home a week after armistice and by then my mother was able to rent a house in Des Moines. A few years later, the Des Moines River and 2 other rivers nearby flooded the entire city. They lost nearly everything except each other. During that time he found work that provided health insurance. They both were tested to find out why they couldn't conceive. My mother had a massive amount of scar tissue that blocked all attempts at conception. She was very devout then in the Pentecost Church. She had surgery to remove it. Six months later, I was in the oven. That was about this time in 1956. My mother was 35. But my father was 41. I was born June 4, 1957. My parents only thought they were ready to have a child. My mother claimed I was a gift from God.

I was sickly. My mother nursed me. But she didn't know how food a woman eats can affect her nursing child. My father lost the job, they were only eating one meal a day. I was not thriving. When I was 4 months my mother cracked from the pressure to get me to eat. My father took her to stay with her sister. He heard work was available in Kansas City. He did get a good job as a machinist developing bullet casings. He also got a house to buy from a man he befriended but I don't quite know all of that story. So he went up and got my mother and I. By then the cold war was happening and tension building with Russia! They finally got me to a doctor who knew what to do. Infant formula was unheard of, but he gave them a recipe. My mother could barely read, but even though my father only passed to grade 9, he followed the recipe. I'm here now. I would have been dead very soon if not for the enlightenment of the doctor. They had no idea how to be parents.... Want to know how we survived the rest of childhood? Stay tuned to the next issue... Your friend in America, Jeanne

Jeanne can be contacted via Peter White.

Longstowe Sports Club

In 2019 the cricket club had an improvement of fortunes, having had a terrible season in 2018 and relegation. Now with just one team and a good team spirit we hope for even better times in 2020 (see League table).

For those who have supported the Club, a big thank you.

If you know of anyone who would like to play cricket for Longstowe next season, the Club's play-cricket website can be found at: <http://longstowe.play-cricket.com>, or phone Secretary John Gooch 07950 708019 or John Murden 07871 350375.

The A.G.M. will be held at the Red House, on Thursday 30th January at

7.30pm. Anyone interested please come along.

Dick Murden, President

Longstowe Sports Club, December 2019, Issue No. 20

Final League Tables

Mr Cricket CCCA Junior League 3 South

Team	ply	won	lost	canc	a	lcn	wcn	BP	pts
Cam Kerala	16	12	2	2	0	0	0	14	264
Haslingfield	16	11	3	1	1	0	0	26	256
Harlton	16	7	5	2	1	0	0	31	193
Comberton	16	6	8	1	0	0	0	56	188
Cambridge NCI	16	6	8	1	1	0	0	49	179
Madingley	16	6	7	2	1	0	0	41	176
Longstowe	16	6	8	2	0	0	0	39	169
Milton III	16	4	10	0	2	0	0	68	158
Romsey Town	16	3	10	1	2	0	0	71	146

Key: ply=played, canc=cancelled, a=abandoned, lcn=team conceded (0 points), wcn=opposition conceded (20 points), BP=bonus points, pts=total points gained.

Jottings from The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Once again this Autumn we had a fantastic talk from Stephen Owen and Peter White which gave us further details that the guys have run to ground on the history of Longstowe Church. Why not pop in over Christmas as we do have very comprehensive Visitor Sheet detailing key historical information about the church, together with copy plan as compiled by Stephen Owen, together with some new photographs of the Plate.

A huge thanks to Stephen for his amazing research on our Church and to Peter White for his continuing watching brief and garnered knowledge in respect of our carillon of Bells. If you have any questions I am sure both would be more than happy to field them for you. A reminder also that Viv Storey & the History Society have

compiled a large amount of history about the people of the village from the late 19th/early 20th Century.

Harvest Supper

On the evening of Saturday 12th October we celebrated our village Harvest Supper. The evening was indeed a merry one with more than fifty adults plus a couple of youngsters joining in the fun. Grace was said by Revd Nigel Pearson who had given of his own free time to join us.

Many of those who took part had donated food and raffle prizes. There was a great assortment of food for both main courses and puddings. Diners were treated to a round of church related anagrams to solve. Now we all know that NEAR FLU is an anagram for FUNERAL just as ONES DEATH is for HEADSTONE! Conversation was lively throughout the evening with a huge round of applause once the total of cash we had all raised was

announced. That figure was £528. This sum will be used toward maintenance of the church fabric. Very many thanks from all the PCC. It is planned to hold this annual event on the second Saturday of October. For those who came for the first time this year we do hope you will return and support again. It is fun.



Christingle Service 1st December

The Church Wardens would like to extend their personal thanks to Daphne Ford for her energy and commitment to this very special service in our calendar, and to Rev. Nigel Pearson for making the afternoon such a lovely, happy affair. We welcomed 52 people including some 20 plus children

from the very young new twins in the village of just 9 months old together with a very active 1 year old. It was a magic afternoon. The collection so far has raised £141 for the Children's Society and the Bourn Deanery Team will match fund this. And, we still have to count the collection boxes which the children of Bourn School have been filling with their spare pennies.

Dates for your 2020 Diary:

Quiz Nite: Saturday 1st February
Harvest Supper: Saturday 10th October

First Services of 2020:

12th January Holy Communion 8.30 am
26th January Morning Prayer 10.30 am

Real Joy

What is Christmas without Jesus Christ?
It's a holiday full of stuff.

Money & stress, teaching kids greed,
Some people are saying "Enough"
Love one another Jesus said.

It's all about love, not things.

Let's teach our children to help and
create

The real joy the true Christmas brings.

– Joanne Fuchs

And a Happy & Healthy New Year to you All!

Normal collection date	Bin collections	Revised collection date
Wednesday 25 December	Black	Friday 27 December
Wednesday 1 January	Blue	Friday 3 January
Wednesday 8 January	Black	Thursday 9 January
Wednesday 15 January	Blue & Green	Wednesday 15 January

Village Hall Hire Charge per day £120, per hour £12.

For further information and bookings, contact Mrs Caroline White:

LongstoweVillageHall@outlook.com / telephone or text 077 32 160 951

Please send items for the April 2020 *Skylark* by Friday 13th March to
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Printed by Victoire Press, 9–10 Viking Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8EL
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