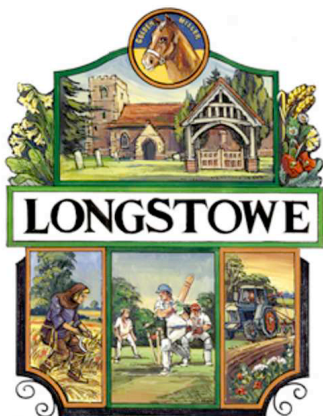
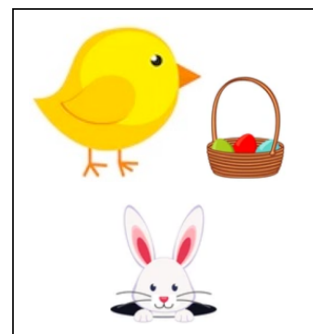




THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

Supplement April 2021



Next Parish Council Meeting

Due to take place virtually on the **15th April at 7.15pm**. Please contact Barbara Cooper on bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk or via phone (07803 903047) if you would like the link to join the meeting.

Latest Covid News

The Covid case rate in South Cambridgeshire was only 24/100,000 in the last week, which is the lowest incidence level in Cambridgeshire at present but don't take these numbers for granted. The reopening of our communities still needs to be appropriately cautious. Take extra care when taking advantage of the first phase of unlocking now the rule of six, or two households meeting outside, can resume.

Vaccine transport reminder

A number of community transport schemes and taxi firms are available to support people with transport to their Covid-19 vaccination appointments. For residents needing help they can access the details on-line at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination> or, if preferable, by calling 0345 045 5219 from Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. The call operator will run through the form to identify transport options available locally. Most transport providers require a minimum of 24 hours' notice for bookings and are DBS checked.

Grants for parents whose children are self-isolating

Parents who need to take time off work to look after children who are self-isolating can apply for financial support (including parents of children aged up to 25 with an EHC plan). Find out more about how to apply at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/financial-support-to-help-you-and-your-family-in-self-isolation/>.

Elections

Elections are taking place on 6 May for County Council seats, for the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Find out more about the elections and the candidates on the Council's website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/> after nominations close on 8th April.

You must be registered to vote by 19th April and, if you cannot get to the Village Hall to vote you can apply for a postal vote up to 20th April at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/voting-by-post-or-proxy/>. The postal vote must be in by 10pm on Polling day.

Hiring the Village Hall

The Village Hall is taking bookings again for events to be held within the guidelines in force at the time of the event. The hall has already been booked for voting in the local elections on 6th May 2021.

Great British Spring Clean - 28 May to 13 June 2021

This spring, join Keep Britain Tidy to clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches. Because what is good for our environment is good for our mental and physical health too. Visit <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/pledge-to-pick> to pledge time to pick. Those minutes will be converted to miles with the hope that, come summer, we can all enjoy a cleaner, greener, litter-free environment.

From 29th March, outdoor gatherings of up to six people (the rule of six) or two households will be allowed so, in line with this guidance, litter picking activity in small groups of up to six volunteers, or two households will be supported.

The existing [hygiene and social distancing measures](#) should continue to be followed and ensure you have protective equipment including a litter-picker and gloves. Please wash or sanitise your hands well after your clean up.

If you have any coronavirus symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has had symptoms please follow government guidelines, stay at home and don't undertake any volunteering activity.

Bin Collection changes

Wednesday 07 April	Friday 09 April
Wednesday 14 April	Thursday 15 April
Wednesday 05 May	Thursday 06 May

Public Footpath Map

The map of our public footpaths is taken from the Ordnance Survey map of the area and is subject to copyright so it cannot be supplied free of charge; however, it is available on-line from <https://shop.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/>. This website does have a free registration option whereby you can currently get a 7-day free no obligation trial subscription to the premium app. From this you would be able to print out your own maps of anywhere in the country.

Observe the Countryside Code when out and about

Respect everyone - be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside; leave gates and property as you find them; do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking; be nice, say hello, share the space; follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the environment - take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit; take care with BBQs and do not light fires; always keep dogs under control and in sight; dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do; care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors - check your route and local conditions; plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do; enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

Church Services through Easter

Morning Prayer through Holy Week at 8.15am

'Phone-in' Church Monday @ 5pm (Want/need to know more, please contact Geoff Dodgson)

Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Noon

Easter Vigil at 8.30pm (Saturday 3rd April)

10.30am - Holy Communion on Sunday in Longstowe socially distanced at the Church.

There will also be a zoom worship session for those unable to attend in person at 11.30am.

Find more information and links to services at <https://www.papworthteamchurches.org/>.

County Broadband update

Great news! County Broadband's pre-order target required to build a new Hyperfast broadband network in Longstowe has been met and we are being included in the build, including providing the Village Hall with a Hyperfast broadband connection for free. The plan is to provide the network as quickly as possible over the course of the next 18 months. This will involve major infrastructure works to deliver new Hyperfast broadband cables across the local area.

Latest Scams

Since the onset of the pandemic there have been a lot of unscrupulous people trying to cash in on innocent people staying at home with phone, email and text scams. Please do not click on any link sent to you in texts and emails unless you are expecting the text/email and are happy that it is reliable.

Double check with the company to make sure the information you have been given is correct. If you get a phone call you are not expecting don't immediately think it must be right. Do not give away any financial or personal details. Get as many details as possible about who is phoning and where from and make a separate phone call to the company to check. One hint, when you have rung off from the suspect phone call, ring a friend/relative whose voice you know to make sure the previous call has been ended correctly and they are not waiting quietly, still on the line, to pretend to be the company again. Report scams to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or by phoning 0300 123 2040.