



THE SKYLARK

Longstowe Parish Newsletter

March 2022



Notice of Road Closures

1 March 2022 and 31 August 2023

TTRO 22/204 Various South, Surface dressing

The following roads are scheduled to be closed
sometime between the above dates

Longstowe Road (B1046), Little Gransden;

High Street (B1046), Longstowe;

School Lane (B1046), Longstowe.

Diversion is as follows:-

B1046 –A1198 –B1042 –B1040 –B1046 and vice versa

Covid 19



Just because restrictions have been removed, it doesn't mean that Covid has gone away. Cambridgeshire is still one of the top areas for infection. Please continue to take precautions when out and about and be considerate to other people who may be vulnerable. Many vulnerable people are afraid to venture out as it is now becoming impossible to be sure if others out and about are infected and not isolating. If you know you may be around anyone with reduced resistance to the virus, do wear a mask and be sensitive to their fear.

Regular testing and voluntary isolation will make sure you do not carry infection around. Get your booster vaccination if you are eligible.

Covid 19 Co-ordination Hubs

Cambridgeshire County Council:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Use the NHS website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call 119.

NHS Test and Trace Scams

It's well known that scammers and fraudsters have used the fear and uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation to take advantage of victims.

Action Fraud have said that scams involving the virus have already claimed more than £5million from victims.

How are fraudsters taking advantage of victims?

One way that this has happened is through 'spoofing' – this is where scammers replicate telephone numbers allowing them to 'impersonate' genuine companies/organisations so that they can steal personal information – including bank details and/or get people to send them money under false pretences.

A recent example of this is being perpetuated around the new NHS Test and Trace system where patients receive an SMS message saying they have been in close contact with someone who has Omicron and to order a test kit. Ways to detect if this is a scam will come from a mobile number and the URL in the SMS message contains the words "NHS" and "pcr" rather than directing you to the gov.uk website. The NHS Test and Trace website does make it clear that they will not ask for financial information, payment, details of other accounts, request a PIN number or password be set up or to call a premium rate number. Hopefully, with the imminent discontinuation of the Test and Trace service, this type of scam will soon stop. However, if another variant of Covid raises its head and the government reinstates the system, do be warned and take care with unsolicited texts and phone calls.

Longstowe Parish Council report

Defibrillator

The Parish Council have applied for a grant toward the purchase of a defibrillator for the village. **EVERYONE could potentially benefit from having a defibrillator nearby. None of us would like to watch our spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, friend or neighbour needlessly die or suffer brain damage, because of a lack of a defibrillator. The British Heart Foundation states every second counts.** Longstowe have started to raise funds for this equipment. We would like to thank those individuals who have already kindly donated towards this purchase and to offering to locate the defibrillator.

The location will require an electricity supply with a running cost of around £3.00 per year. To satisfy the scheme and due to the risk of vandalism or theft, we will also require a lockable external cabinet.

It is now up to the PC and residents to work together to secure this vital life saving equipment for the benefit of current and future residents.

You can contact the council by emailing the Clerk on longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com or contacting the Chairperson at bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk or by phone on 07803 903047 or by post at The Dene, Old North Road, Bourn, Cambridge CB23 2TZ.

Longstowe Volunteer Help: Parish Council and Volunteer Group contacts:

Clerk, Sharon Brown 07587 781217 or

Longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com

Chair, Barbara Cooper 07803 903047 or

bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk

Maddy Crowther 01954 718303 – for urgent food, supplies & prescriptions

Victoria Bevan 07832 100441 – a 'phone call for a friendly chat.

Neighbourhood Plan

On Tuesday 22nd February, following the Parish Council Meeting, the first public meeting was held to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the community were invited to attend and to contribute to the steering group. There was a good response and 28 attended including members of the Parish Council. Barbara Cooper temporarily chaired the meeting and explained what a Neighbourhood Plan was and why it was needed. It is an opportunity for the community to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of the local area. Longstowe residents can define the planning of the area by identifying where they want new homes,

shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and have more influence on applications for planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead (or not). This includes the protection of green spaces. If no plan is in place, there is nothing to stop District Councils making whatever plans they want irrespective of the decisions of the local Parish Council.

Barbara made the point that, although the Parish Council was initiating the Neighbourhood Plan, the actual production should be led by the local people and she outlined the steps required.

Step one - Making a neighbourhood area application.

Step two - Publication of proposals for the plan and consultation.

Step three - Submission of a draft Plan to the local planning authority.

Step four - The independent examination of the plan.

Step five - The Referendum and bringing the neighbourhood plan into force.

After the meeting 13 volunteers from those present agreed to join the steering group and included members of the Parish Council and residents of various ages and length of time of living in the village. The first steering group meeting will take place on Monday 7th March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at which a chairperson and secretary will be appointed. Minutes from these meetings will be published on the noticeboards, website and via social media. If you wish to get involved there is still time and you should contact Sharon Brown, Longstowe Parish Council Secretary, on longstowepc.clerk@hotmail.com



Do you need a support with your or your family's cancer diagnosis?

At Maggie's we can help. We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis throughout living with the affects after cancer.

Maggie's has been providing high quality, evidence-based support since 2013 in the local area. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural

environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer. Our Centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them. Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Find us at:
21 Milton House
Puddicombe Way
Addenbrooke's
Cambridge CB2 0AD
T: 01223 249220
E: cambridge@maggies.org
Facebook: @maggiescentrecambs
Instagram: @maggiescambridge
Twitter: @maggiescambs
Website: www.maggies.org

A Sudoku Puzzle for you

(Solution on the back page)

				3				
	1	7		4		3	9	
	6						1	
			5		7			
8	9						2	5
			3		8			
	7						6	
	4	1		6		9	3	
				5				

The Village Hall

To book, please phone 01954 719669 and leave a message if no one answers, or preferably email longstowevillagehall@outlook.com.

Note: the old mobile number is no longer in use.

Village Hall Monthly Teas



The dates for the monthly Village Hall tea party will be :-

25th March)
29th April) 2pm to 4:30pm
27th May)
24th June)

All are welcome to come for a chat with tea and cake.

Longstowe Post Office

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00–12:30 for the sale of stamps, issue of pensions, posting letters and small parcels, obtain an account balance and issuing cash via debit card. Collection point for some parcels. Use it or lose it!

Last collection times: High Street Mon–Fri: 16:15, Sat: 10:30 and Fox Road: Mon–Fri: 09:00, Sat: 07:00.

NHS Priority Collections are now made from the local post boxes on a Sunday.

Papworth Team Ministry

Lent Group 2022

There will be an online Lent Group on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Details will be on the Team website www.papworthteamchurches.org

Jottings From The Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Thanks

We have some fantastic volunteers and we would like to thank them all for their generosity of time and willingness to turn up to meetings of the PCC, put on the rubber gloves, ring the bells or start up the grass mowers etc. Without them we really would be unable to open the church on a regular basis.

Particular thanks for the maintenance of the building of our lovely church must go to Stephen Owen and Peter White and to the Hemmins' and the Murdens' for the churchyard and to Daphne Ford for helping us keep the church clean.

Bee Orchids



Talking churchyard, the snowdrops are finally spreading, yippee! Also we have a small colony of **protected bee orchids** making an appearance in early summer. These beautiful plants get their name from the main pollinator - a species of bee - which is thought to have driven the evolution of the flowers. To attract the bees

that will pollinate the plant, it has flowers that mimic their appearance. Drawing them in with the promise of love, the bees attempt a mating. As they land on the velvet-textured lip of the flower, the pollen is transferred and the poor bee is left frustrated. Sadly, the right species of bee doesn't occur in the UK, so bee orchids self-pollinate here. In practical terms, what this means is that bee orchids set plenty of seed pods producing copious seed.

As the seed pods start to mature after July, the area needs to be mown as hard as possible, getting a thin, fine fescue-rich turf, ideally with a fair amount of moss. The PCC have therefore decided to try to manage the cutting of the churchyard grass with a view to encouraging further colonisation. So please be aware that some areas of the grass will not be cut early in the summer

Church Electoral Roll

In due course the **Church Electoral Roll for the Parish of Longstowe** will be renewed. Initially, we are asking people who are currently on the roll if they would like to continue but if you would like to "sign up" and you have not previously done so, please just give Maddy a call on 01954 718303 or email to madeleinejones@btconnect.com and it can easily be arranged. By the way there is an advantage to being on the Electoral Roll – a free pass to Ely Cathedral. It is the most wonderful of buildings and so worth a visit & there is plenty of free parking and excellent refreshments.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Finally, plans are afoot to do something special between the Church and the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the extended Spring Bank Holiday – Whitsun. A fabulous opportunity to dress up and have a good party. If you are interested in flowers and photographs and would like to get involved in the organization, please do

contact Maddy Crowther on 01954 718303 or email to madeleinejones@btconnect.com.

Future dates for your diary:

Events

- Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd June to 6th June.
- April 30th – Annual Meeting Longstowe Church PCC (Parochial Church Council). This is an open meeting and will be held in the Church from 10am.

Special Services

- 27th March Mothering Sunday 9.15am
- 17th April Holy Communion Easter Sunday 10.30am
- 5th June Service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 10.30am

Longstowe PCC officers:

Dr Sheena McRae: Church Warden

Mr Nicholas Jenkins: Treasurer

Other members of the PCC: Mr Anthony Clay, Mrs Maddy Crowther, Mr Stephen Owen, Mr Peter White.

For day to day communication about the Church in Longstowe please continue to contact Maddy Crowther on 01954 718303. She has stepped down from the "legal role of Church Warden" for this coming year and is acting on an informal basis as Church Warden's Assistant.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations

This year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee (seventy years of service), having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

There will be Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as countries, communities and people come together to celebrate HM The Queen's historic reign. Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion, culminating with the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.

The Platinum Jubilee Weekend is an extended bank holiday and runs from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. It will provide an opportunity for the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate this historic milestone. Across the four days the celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on HM The Queen's 70 years of service.

To celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, SCDC will be providing grants to community groups who would like to organise special events to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Please do contact the Chair of the Parish Council Barbara Cooper to find out more about how to apply to for a grant.

Revised bin collection date for the Easter Holiday:

Usual day	Revised day	Bin		
		Black	Blue	Green
Wed 13 April	No change	✓		
Wed 19 April	Fri 22 April		✓	✓
Wed 27 April	Thus 28 April	✓		
Wed 4 May	Thus 5 May		✓	✓
Wed 11 May	No change	✓		

All other dates remain the same as usual.

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire

Wildlife Trust West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Update:
March 2022



Spring is here! In hedgerows, scrub areas, and woodland edges, blackthorn is flowering, and hawthorn and elder leaves are out. Hawthorn and blackthorn are very common hedgerow bushes that are great for wildlife. They can look quite similar over winter, but chances are, if you are seeing a swathe of white in a hedgerow in March it is blackthorn, and a mass of green is probably hawthorn. Blackthorn flowers before it has leaves, and hawthorn always after. Older hedges often have a greater diversity of species; the hedge leading to Hayley Wood from B1046 is 800 years old. Elm is a common tree in our area the can be seen in March with pinkish flowers appearing in clusters. By April, the groups of flat pale green papery winged fruits can be seen. Before the summer migrants arrive in April, you can hear our resident birds like blackbirds and chaffinches singing their territorial songs, and great spotted

woodpeckers drumming. Listen for willow warblers from April, they like the denser areas of regrowth in Hayley Wood where the coppiced hazel has been left to grow back for several years. They have a melodic down-the-scale song. In our woodland reserves in the West Cambs Hundreds you will see ancient woodland indicator plants like bluebell and dog's mercury, primrose, oxlip, and violet in flower. Many woodland flowers complete their lifecycle early before they are shaded by tree leaves. In May, you might come across the rare bird's-nest orchid in Hayley Wood. This plant parasitises tree roots so does not have leaves or a green colour.

Throughout the year, The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants deliverer guided walks and family sessions to help you learn more about local wildlife, and how you can help look after these special reserves. There are more specialised walks focusing on spring wildflowers or bird song, and some more general walks looking at seasonal wildlife. Family sessions run over the school holidays.

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/events>

Please get in touch if you are looking for a speaker for your community group, would like to invite us to attend an event, or have an idea for a wildlife-related activity.

Over this winter, our nature reserve staff have planted hundreds of mostly hazel saplings to replace some of the ash trees that needed to be removed from Hayley Wood due to the disease ash die-back. Forestry work finishes late winter to avoid bird breeding season, and over the summer we have specialist volunteers with botanical skills doing wildlife surveys.

Our woodland reserves get many visitors over bluebell season so please park responsibly, and keep these woods special for everyone by sticking to the paths. It is still muddy in our woodlands, (although much better than last year) so please take wellies when visiting, and stick to the middle of paths to avoid trampling plants and compacting soil on the edges. You can keep up-to-date about reserves with restricted access on our website:

www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/reserve-updates

You can contact me on E-mail:

rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org Facebook:

@BeccaBadgerWTBCN

BCN Facebook/Twitter: @wildlifebcn

Visit: www.wildlifebcn.org

The West Cambridgeshire Hundreds are a group of nature reserves owned and/or managed by the Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs and Northants: Hardwick, Gamlingay, Hayley, and Waresley and Gransden Woods, Buff Wood, plus Cambourne Nature Reserve.

"Golden Jubilee 2002" plate



I have a spare "Golden Jubilee 2002" plate. It is too good to let it just disappear into a charity shop. If you'd like to give it a home for free, just give me a call.

> Peter White

> 01954 719669

Longstowe History Society

LONGSTOWE HISTORY SOCIETY
**The History of Papworth
Hospital**
Illustrated talk by Becky Proctor



LONGSTOWE VILLAGE HALL
Tuesday 26th April 2022
7.30 for 8pm

Admission: £3 (Members free)
Refreshments included
Everyone welcome

Romance scams, not just for the younger generation

At the beginning of February, Netflix released a crime documentary, "The Tinder Swindler," that tells the stories of several women from Norway, Sweden and Finland who had been victims of a sophisticated romance scam.

The man who scammed them used a similar story each time. He posed as a very wealthy person with very powerful enemies, but within this dangerous, jet-setting life of his he found time to connect with matches on dating apps. After months of conversation, weekend getaways and "maybe we should move in together"s, he would message his victims with news that he had been attacked by his enemies and was unable to access his money. He'd then ask for increasingly large sums of cash that would be repaid as soon as he got access to his funds. Of course, there were no enemies, nor were there funds locked away. Once he got the payment from the victims? Poof, gone.

A few years ago, one victim [went to the Norwegian press](#) to tell her story. That reporting serves as the basis for the Netflix documentary. And as The Guardian's Rebecca Nicholson notes [in her review](#) of the documentary, when the Swindler's victims went public, they faced a considerable amount of scorn, shaming and name-calling from the public. That's how "gold-digger" entered this story.

Online romance fraud has cost victims £63m in 2020 in the UK (Action fraud). That's as far as we know, anyway. That number could be higher. 800 more cases were reported in 2020 than the previous year. Like so many crimes in which a person's intimacy is violated, the stigma associated with romance scams means crimes go unreported. As a result, most people remain unaware of the true threat this kind of fraud poses. And any of us could become victims if we remain unaware of the threat.

Dating or finding company online without meeting in person has become the new normal throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The internet has given many of us a lifeline during a difficult time, but fraudsters have been quick to take advantage. Fake profiles on dating sites and social media platforms are so prevalent. A new UK spin-off of the popular US reality show 'Catfish', and a second season of BBC One series 'For Love or Money' exist because this is so commonplace. Whilst the "Tinder Swindler" is a particularly dramatic story of scamming with huge sums of money and jet-setting, there are many more, less documentary worthy, romance scams going on. In fact, of the reports received in the past year, 20 percent of victims were aged 50 to 59, so it's not isolated to the

younger generation on Tinder. Whether it's convincing someone they meet online to support their family through critical surgery or issues with visas, fraudsters can target people of any age. Just googling romance scams will bring up many examples of people in their 50s and 60s being scammed in this way.

As soon as a person asks for money under false pretences, that is fraud and should be reported, whether you pay or not. As with all fraud, this should be reported to Action Fraud or Police Scotland.

How to check if a photo is stolen

This is useful for many other things, but a stolen photo for a profile picture is a great place to start. If you're trying to spot whether a photo is fake, you can use TinEye or Google Image Search to 'reverse image search'. You can either drag the photo or download it to your computer and then upload it. This tracks where else on the internet this photo exists to see if it's a stock image (an existing licensed photo for generic use), or a stolen social media photo. If there are no results, don't assume this means the photo is legitimate. Fraudsters are always using new tactics to avoid detection – they might even use images created by an AI machine. For example, websites such as thispersondoesnotexist.com feature disturbingly realistic headshots of humans that don't actually exist.

Why romance scams are so destructive

Romance scams can bleed a person financially and psychologically. Think about it. If you put your trust in someone only to discover you've been lied to all that time — for weeks, months, sometimes years — you will feel betrayed. And, for many of us, ashamed. All too often, these scams are presented as superficial or trivial, or at most a "you should have known better" type of mistake.

But how many of us could have known better had we been caught up in a scam like The Tinder Swindler's? Who among us would shrug off a charming, interesting, fascinating person when they enter our lives, even if their story seemed a little too interesting to be true? That's not how people work, especially people who feel they might be falling for someone. A well-timed "I love you" from a scammer can flood a victim's brain with hormones and cause all of their defences to drop. Anyone seeking a connection, whether wittingly or unwittingly, is susceptible to this scam. That's why each of us needs to be vigilant, understand the risks and have empathy for people who have been so betrayed.

Cei Sanderson

Reinventing stamps for the future

Following a successful national trial the Royal Mail will now be adding unique barcodes to all regular 'everyday' stamps and Christmas stamps. Each barcoded stamp will have a digital twin and the two will be connected by the Royal Mail App. The unique barcodes will facilitate operational efficiencies, enable the introduction of added security features and pave the way for innovative services for customers. The barcodes match the stamp colour and sits alongside the main body of the stamp, separated by a simulated perforation line. The new barcode is an integral part of the stamp and it must remain intact for the stamp to be valid.

Non-barcoded stamps will be phased out but will remain usable until 31 January 2023. Customers are encouraged to use their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme.

The 'Swap Out' scheme will open on 31 March 2022. Forms will be available via a variety of channels, including local Customer Service Points; the Royal Mail website and via the Customer Experience team. Customers will be able to use a Freepost address. Further details will be announced shortly.

Mobile Libraries

The mobile library visits Longstowe every 3rd Friday in the month.

Location Rushbrook Close

Arrival Time 11:10 am

Departure Time 11:25 am

Frequency Monthly

Some Birds around the Village.

Coming out in the dark of the evening yesterday, a Tawny Owl was hooting from the field to the north. Definitely, it also likes the copse on the other side of the road as it can be heard there very often and all year round. Jackdaws too, are one of the village's great features, staking out various chimneys and dotting roof tops in pairs. The interest they take in the activities of Longstowe's human residents is fascinating. They truly seem to comment on our comings and goings and certainly any gardening going on, swooping down to investigate when one goes back indoors again. Then, just over a week ago and despite the continuing frosts, Bluetits were already investigating the nest box I have on the back wall. Over the last few years, my nest boxes have been occupied by Bluetit, Wren, Robin, Great-tit and bumble bees, a pretty good range. The little shy Dunnock sticks to the tangle of Honeysuckle however, whilst the Wren has moved to the Rosemary these

days. This winter a Mistle Thrush has been particularly noticeable on the ridge and furrow meadow by the village sign and its distinctive call when disturbed is easily heard as it flies off. Not long after reading this newsletter the summer residents will be returning to us. Watching out for Swallows, House Martins and Swifts is one of those pleasures not to be missed, as those in the village that provide them with nest sites can testify, let alone those of us that walk the foot paths and watch the Swallows swooping over the

fields. Years ago, when I first knew Longstowe, I always thought of it as the Greenfinch place, but unfortunately these birds are now in trouble. The same goes for our Skylark (the bird – not the magazine). In fact, the last four species mentioned are on the Red List of UK Birds of Conservation Concern, but they are all part of the make up of this village and parish, to be nurtured and enjoyed.

Sharon Brown

Longstowe Cricket Club Fixtures 2022

Cambs Junior League Division 3 West

(All matches start at 1-30pm and are 40 overs per side)

Date	Home/ Away	Opponent	Venue
7th May	H	Barrington 2nds	Longstowe Village Hall
14th May	A	Cambridge St Giles 3rds	Dry Drayton
21st May	H	Comberton	Longstowe Village Hall
28th May	A	Great Shelford	Great Shelford Recreation Ground
4th June		No match	
11th June	H	Cam Kerala 2nds	Longstowe Village Hall
18th June	A	Harlton	The Angry Wasp Oval
25th June	H	Cambridge St Giles 3rds	Longstowe Village Hall

Sudoku Solution

2	7	4	1	5	6	8	3	9
8	3	6	2	9	7	1	4	5
1	9	5	3	8	4	2	7	6
6	4	1	8	2	3	9	5	7
5	2	7	4	1	9	3	6	8
3	8	9	7	6	5	4	2	1
4	1	8	6	7	2	5	9	3
9	6	3	5	4	8	7	1	2
7	5	2	9	3	1	6	8	4

Please send items for publication in the June 2022 Skylark by
no later than **Saturday 13th May** to LongstoweSkylark@hotmail.com

Longstowe Parish Council: webpage address:
<http://www.longstoweparishcouncil.co.uk>

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